

THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR



JOHN BIRT IS REVILED AND RIDICULED. BUT HE'S RIGHT MEDIA, TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 12

Ramblers win 50-year battle

THE GOVERNMENT infuriat- By MICHAEL MCCARTHY ed landowners and delighted AND COLIN BROWN ramblers yesterday by announcing new legal rights to walk over open countryside, which were far more radical

The long-promised "right to roam"-cherished target of the the proposals with fury, will be traditional Labour Left for half able to object to new local aca century - was announced by cess forums, which it is hoped, Michael Meacher. The Envi- Mr Meacher said, will reach ronment minister said walkers consensus on access. If agreewill get for the first time a ment could not be reached, statutory right of access to be-

acres of countryside in England and Wales, defined as mountain. moorland, heath, downland and registered common land.

Landowners, who greeted compulsion will be used, mak-

tinue to block rights of access. The new Countryside Agency being established for England this year and the Countryside Council for Wales, which will manage the forums

county by county, will make the final decisions. They will map all the land covered by the new access, which could take Mr Meacher told delighted Labour backbenchers the legislation would be brought in as

former Labour leader and a Tony Blair was suspected of

wanting to cave in to landowners' demands for more modest voluntary agreements, but pressure from the Environ-Prescott, the Deputy Prime bench support for the forthcoming private member's soon as parliamentary time al- Prentice, the MP for Pendle,

memory of John Smith", the of the need for a more radical

Mr Meacher told MPs: "Over the past 50 years, a voluntary approach has delivered relatively little and, despite some commendable initiatives, there is little prospect of much new ment Department, John access being provided voluntarily in future ... Only a new Minister, and Labour back- statutory right will deliver costeffectively the extent and permanence of access we seek. We "Right to Roam" Bill by Gordon are convinced legislation is the only way to make sure people lowed as a "lasting tribute to the have convinced Downing Street

Landowners could restrict access for up to 28 days each year for land management, such as heather burning or shooting. Other temporary or permanent closures might be made for nature conservation, protection of heritage sites, health and safety or defence.

Mr Meacher said the new Countryside Agency's first president would be Ewen Cameron, a Somerset landowner who is the immediate past will be tree in perpetuity to ex- president of the Country

landowners would fight the move. He said: "We believe this to be the expropriation of private land rights.

Kate Ashbrook, head of the Ramblers' Association freedom to roam campaign, was "delighted" with what she called "an historic moment".

Parliament, page 8 Leading article and David Aaronovitch,



Flashguns and tears as 'that woman' hits town

THEY HAD queued for ages the star-struck, the sad, and the merely curious. They thronged in their hundreds to see Monica Lewinsky. It was bound to briefly, it did.

Some had been up before dawn Others had elbowed their way to the front of the line that snaked around the books department at Harrods in London.

At the front, Anne Kersey, 39, a local Knightsbridge housewife, revealed with pride that she had also been the first to sign the Book of Condolence for Diana, Princess of Wales, at St James's Palace in September 1997. It was that sort of queue.

Ms Lewinsky was always going to be a big draw, but surely no one guessed that her appearance at the first signing of her biography, Monica's Story, would have been quite so mad. So hundreds of people were squeezed together, stumbling into books on the history of Cairo and Iranian art, as they table and began with gusto to never before have imagined... I

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

called the United States President "butt-head" and to whom

Timothy Harris, 33, of Sacramento, California, said: "I think she has been dragged through the wringer, so all power to her If she gets a pound or two of mine from her book that is fine by me."

The object of Mr Harris's generosity appeared at 12.30pm with a nervous smile for the hundreds of flashguns. Ms Lewinsky signed copies for the first five people, then the cameras were cleared and she left the room.

There was a murmur in the queue. Was she all right? There was talk of her wiping away tears. Was she coming back?

Indeed she was. Twenty minutes later she reappeared, while the Harrods spokesman explained away her "touch of flu". With that, Ms Lewinsky took her seat at a large oak



The former White House intern Monica Lewinsky at Harrods yesterday to sign copies of 'Monica's Story', her official biography

think, who could move forward

having had this affair with the

Police chief suspended

"More often than not I regret

President. There are some days affair with a married man."

with me in that manner...

Russell Boyce/Reuters

Brown to introduce energy tax on business over fatal shooting

BY COLIN BROWN Chief Political Correspondent

THE CHANCELLOR will announce plans today to tax the business use of gas, electricity and oil to raise an estimated £7bn and help Britain to meet its targets for reducing greenhouse gases.

Tony Blair met Gordon Prown twice yesterday to dalise the Budget package, adding to speculation that the Prime Minister intervened at an early stage to reduce the impact of tax changes on middleclass families.

But with most of the Budget papers already being printed, it is believed they were working on the final tone of the speech to be delivered to Parliament.

In one key development, Mr Brown will end the prevarication over an energy tax by actIN TOMORROW'S INDEPENDENT



24-PAGE **BUDGET REVIEW**

The essential guide to today's Budget

ing on the conclusions of the report by Lord Marshall of Knightsbridge, the chairman of muters to abandon their cars British Airways, in favour of taxing big users of energy to help Britain meet multilateral emissions agreements. Labour's election manifesto pledged to

cut harmful carbon dioxide emissions, which produce glob-

lucky customers.

Later, speaking to The Inde-

pendent, Ms Lewinsky said she

had been overcome by the event:

"It's very bizarre. To lose your

anonymity is something I would

sign her name for the next 395 am here to help promote a book,

Monica's Story, but it is not a

very happy story. It's hard to han-dle." She said she was opti-

mistic about the future. "In the

long run I hope to certainly get

Will her notoriety hinder her?

married and have kids."

By Jason Bennetto

naked by his bed.

A CHIEF CONSTABLE was sus-

pended last night after an in-

quiry into the fatal police

shooting of a man as he stood

Paul Whitehouse, 55, the

highly respected head of Sus-

sex Police, is now almost cer-

tain to face disciplinary action

with his deputy, Mark Jordan,

40, in a case involving an un-

precedented number of senior

officers. Mr Jordan was sus-

pended last month. Sussex po-

lice authority is still considering

the case of an Assistant Chief

Their suspensions follow two in-

al warming, by 2010. Business leaders are worried that the tax will create an advantage for foreign competitors, but they are braced for the announcement and have privately indicated that their criticism will be muted.

But the measure will be welcomed by environmentalists. It forms part of the Chancellor's green" strategy agreed with John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister. Mr Brown will also announce

a 6 per cent increase in fuel duties, underpinning Mr Prescott's efforts to persuade more comand use public transport. US share-owning,

Constable, Nigel Yeo. The officers are understood to face disciplinary charges relating to providing misleading Business, page 16 and inaccurate information.

Whitehouse: Tribunal

Ashley, 39, who was shot in the chest by PC Chris Sherwood during a raid in January last year at his flat in Hastings, East Sussex. Mr Ashley was unarmed and had been in bed with a girlfriend. The Director of Public Prosecutions is considering whether to charge PC Sherwood with murder. The Review, page 3 | quiries into the death of James morning after the incident Mr prove the suspension.

Whitehouse said that the officers had been investigating drug trafficking and the attempted murder of a man stabbed outside a pub. He said that the man they were after was considered "armed and dangerous". It later emerged that Mr Ashley, far from being a murder suspect, had pulled the assailant off the victim and

there are some days I just regret

having told Linda Tripp.

may have saved a life. An inquiry last year by Hampshire police examined how the inaccurate and damaging information came to be broadcast. A statement yesterday by Sussex police authority said: "The authority has resolved that disciplinary proceedings need be taken against

Paul Whitehouse and ... Mark Jordan." The Police Complaints Au-

thority has been asked to ap-

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

"Definitely. Definitely," she said. I regret the entire relationship "It would take a really very, and ever having met him, and very strong, unique individual I there are some days I just regret And what had she learnt from her experiences with No Gimmicks, "Handsome"? "Not to have an NATIONAL RATES 5D No Games, AUSTRIA 100 Just simple CHINA 35p savings india 48p ISRAEL 150 on your JAPAN 16p phone bill. MALAYSIA 20p MAURITIUS 40p · Pay monthly by Direct Nz / Oz 13p Debit or Pre-Pay RUSSIA 30p No need to change your SINGAPORE 18D phone or phone number SOUTH AFRICA 310 THAILAND 40p What would you expect from UAE 38p the fastest growing telecoms carrier in the world? USA /D Communications Week International PRIMUS

INSIDE THIS SECTION

Breast implant scare Implants filled with soya oil are banned over fears of toxic reactions Home P3

Plan to tag children Offenders aged 10 may have electronic tags

Joe DiMagglo dies Joe DiMaggio, baseball legend, has died in Florida, aged 84 Foreign P12

Race for presidency Rivals line up in contest to be next US president Foreign P13

The ombudsman says Skipton Building Society mis-sold mortgages Business P15 West Indies 51 all out

West Indies collapsed to

their lowest Test score

Sport P26

Mortgages 'mis-sold'

Comment P4 Hamish McRae

Hamish McRae.

Terence Blacker Comic Relief: who do these sanctimonious celebs think they are?

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Dance bites Can the Royal Ballet build in the regions?

Surveys say...

..that women must be both macho and mumsy to get ahead Features P8

All prices shown are inclusive of VAT, are in pence per numite, and have beer rounded to the nearest pointy. Calls are charged for the first twelve seconds; there after in sixty second increments. Calls from payphones and mobile phormay be subject to a surcharge. Paying by Direct Debit is subject to status.

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BUDGET REVI

SPECIAL 24-PAGE SUPPLEMENT WITH NEWS, COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

HAMISH MCRAE • JEREMY WARNER • DIANE COYLE • DONALD MACINTYRE • DEBORAH ORR • ANDREAS WHITTAM SMITH

Howe to oppose Hague on euro

LORD HOWE, the former for- BY ANDREW GRICE eign secretary, will defy William. Hague, the Conservative leader, this week by joining the executive of United News and leadership of the campaign aimed at persuading the British public to join the single Euro-

pean currency.
Tony Blair has endorsed the aunch on Thursday of the "Yes" campaign by prominent busi-nessmen, which he hopes will keep up the momentum towards British membership after he unveiled a national changeover plan two weeks ago.

Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine, the most prominent pro-European Union Tory MPs, will not join the Britain in Europe campaign until after the European Parliament elections in June, in an attempt to limit Tory divisions ahead of the Brendan Donnelly. poll. But they have promised to play a leading role after the elections, when a full-scale Yes movement will be launched.

Lord Howe's immediate involvement as an "observer" on the group's board will anger Euro elections," one Hague Tory Eurosceptics. Some MPs ally said last night. may demand that he be deorived of the party whip.

will run an information cam- promised supporters of the paign during the Euro elections to counter Tory attacks on the their views when Tory memsingle currency. The group in- bers backed the leadership's sists it will produce "factual and politically neutral" material.

Britain in Europe will be chaired by Lord Marshall, the British Airways chairman and former president of the Confederation of British Industry. Other prominent businessmen

Media, Colin Sharman, chief executive of KPMG International, and Niall FitzGerald, chairman of Unilever

We believe Mr Blair came off the fence, now we are doing the same," said one organiser. The board will also include Giles Radice, the Labour MP who chairs the European Movement, and Michael Welsh, director of the Tory Action Centre for Europe, who will act as Mr Clarke's "eyes and ears".

Mr Hague's allies bave threatened to expel Tories who endorse a breakaway Pro-Euro Conservative Party launched by two MEPs, John Stevens and

But Mr Hague is unlikely to discipline Lord Howe. "We will let party members make their own judgement; he will weaken his own case in the party by parading his views before the

Friends of Lard Howe in-sisted he was doing nothing The Britam in Europe group wrong, since Mr Hague had erro would remain free to state hard line in a ballot last autumn.

Lord Howe dismissed speculation that Europhile Tories would support the rebel pro-euro candidates in the June poll. But he said he was "saddened" by the departure of Mr Stevens and Mr Donnelly and underwill include Lord Hollick, chief stood their reasons. He warned



William Hague, the Tory leader, at the launch in London yesterday of the Nott Commission Kalpesh Lathigra

send a clear and sombre signal to our party leadership".

However, the Prime Minister's statement has persuaded to investigate the positive case be about the euro. If the Con-Mr Hague to risk another out- for Britain retaining the pound,

the single currency a key issue in the Euro election. Yesterday Mr Hague set up a commission

the former defence secretary. Mr Clarke said: "I don't think the European elections should

LIGHTING UP

6.15pm 6.00pm 6.04pm 6.07pm 5.54pm 6.01pm 5.57pm

HIGH TIDES

that their resignations "should" break of Tory disunity by making to be chaired by Sir John Nott, the euro, it's making a serious mistake." He accused Mr Hague's aides of "advertising Tory divisions" by claiming he would support the rebel Tories, servative Party makes it about which was "nonsense".

YESTERDAY

EXTREMES

London SC (46F)

New pressure on IRA to give up arms to save deal

THE IRA and Sinn Fein last BY ALAN MURDOCH night were under mounting in Dublin pressure from both London and Dublin to start laying down their arms amid new Anglo-Irish moves implementing other parts of the Good Friday

Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, yesterday set a new deadline for a deal on setting up a new administration in Ulster. She confirmed that tomorrow's target date would not be met, but hoped for a settlement by 2 April, the anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement,

a deadline rather than a target "would focus people's minds". He may travel to Belfast to handle last-minute negotiations, while Bill Clinton will try to broker a deal when Irish politicians gather in Washington next week for St Patrick's Day.

Yesterday Ms Mowlam was still clinging to hopes of progress before Easter, despite growing acrimony between Sinn Fein and Ulster Unionists, who do not want Sinn Fein to ioin the Stormont executive until the IRA has started to decommission its weapons.

Speaking in Dublin, she said: think everyone is keen to give this process momentum. No one wants to go past Easter and into the marching season."

retary admitted there was no marks by the deputy first min-She said: "It's not me creating any collapse of the process or a danger period. It's in the par-ties' hands. After the 29th [of March] I don't like dealing in negatives, but we'll look again.

"I have no Plan B after the 29th but I believe there's a will,

North and South, but among the

AND ANDREW GRICE

party leaders to make

Dr Mowlam was attending the formal signing at Dublin Castle with David Andrews, the Irish Foreign Minister, of four treaties launching the North-South bodies, a North-South ministerial council, a British-Irish council and an inter-governmental conference created under the Good Friday Agreement. The event highlighted how progress was being In London, Tony Blair's achieved on all fronts except the aides said he hoped that fixing arms issue.

Referring to talks today between David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader, and Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, Dr Mowlam said: "The building blocks are now in place and I believe that gives everyone the chance to walk down that road of peace leading to a non-violent

Mr Andrews said "one piece of the jigsaw remains. We are all aware that there remain great difficulties surrounding the formation of the executive. But these difficulties can and must be surmounted."

The effect was to add to the "In the timescale we have I sense, encouraged by the Taoiseach Bertie Ahern in Dail statements and interviews, that the next gesture must come from the IRA. That sentiment The Northern Ireland Sec- was echoed in weekend reguarantee that a three-week ister Seamus Mallon of the 🙉 breathing space would work. SDLP, in which he said Sinn Fein had room to move in

reaching a compromise. The new bodies require the prior creation of the Stormont Executive, which will not emerge until the IRA arms issue is resolved. Failure to have the Executive in place by not only among the people 2 April would increase the sense of deepening crisis.

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BRITAIN TODAY **FORECAST**

London, SE England, Channel Is: Another mainly cloudy day with first. This will exentually peter out to leave a drier afternoon. A ligh wind. Max temp 8-10C (46-50F). Cent S England, SW England, Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Mar A few sunny breaks but cloud gathering at times to bring one or bno showery outbreaks of rain. A light north-easterly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F). E Anglia, E England, Midlands, Coot N & NE England: Mostly cloudy and dull with outbreaks of light rain and drizzle and some heavier bursts over the Nils. A moderate east to north-easterly wind. Max temp 5-8C [41-46F].

NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: A good deal of dry and bright weather, but the survey spells will be interspersed with the odd shower. A light northeasterly wind. Max temp 6-8C (43-46F), N trained: The occasional shower is possible but there will be some decent spep of sunshine in between. A light north-easterly wind, Max temp 5-BC (41-66F).

Southern England will have heavy fain on Wednesday. Eastern England and east-ern Scotland may also have some rain, but elsewhere will be dry with suriny spells. The rain will possibly spread further north on Thursday, bringing snow to northern hills. OUTLOOK

Cheltenflam. Closed due to roadworks intround. Diversions in place. Until 1st June. Co., Antrim: A1 Kingaway, Dursmurray. Roadworks, various lane restrictions. Until 1st August.
Darbyshire: A8 Between Derby Southern Bypass (ASO) and Shardlow Road Roundabout. East of Alvaston. Contraflow for work on new ASO. Until 15th Cobber. AA Roadwatch: Call 0338 401777 for the lettest local and national traffic news. Source: The Automobile Association. Calls London: A12 Green Men Roundabout. Laytonstone. Mejor roadworks on naw M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bristol: MS J18-18. Mejor Roadworks of Awonworth Stridge. Until 23rd June 2001. Warwickshiher. M42 Behveen J10 Termont services and J9 Sutton Coldised. Roadwork Warnickamer, Neg serween 110 sammans services and J9 Suiton Codfield. Roadworks and controllow. Until 23rd April. South Yorkshine; M1 Between J34 Tinsley Vladuct (A6109) 8 J34 Tinsley Vladuct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st

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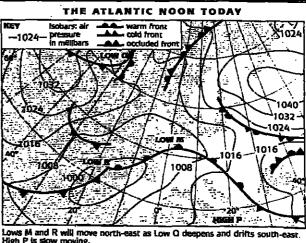
innalest: Tiree 4.9 hrs For 24hrs to 2pm Tuesday Rain

OR SHINE...

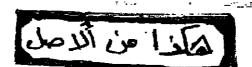
THE UPMARKET holiday isle of Mauritius was warned to prepare for cyclone Davina as weather forecasters predicted the arrival of the storm today. The cyclone is expected to

bring 50 mph winds and heavy showers. The cyclone season for Mauritius lasts from November to mid-May with January and February the peak months. Cyclone Hollanda, which struck in February 1994. damaged sugar fields and the island's power grid.





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warning to 5,000 w pressure women IRA to as breast as breast implant be where banned

> BREAST IMPLANTS filled with By JEREMY LAURANCE soya oil given to 5,000 women to enhance their figures were withdrawn from sale yesterday because of fears that they could cause a toxic reaction.

The Health Department issued a warning over Trilucent implants, which have been on the market for four years, after receiving 74 reports of "adverse incidents". In some cases the implants ruptured, producing globules of an emulsified yoghurt-like substance causing swelling. In a few instances they have become rancid and smelt. Although all types of implant are liable to rupture, when oil leaks from the Trilucent implants it appears to react with the body, producing "biologically active substances".

About 8,000 women a year have breast implants. Experts said the number of soya-oil types was about one in six of the total. Around 70 per cent of Trilucent implants were done privately. NHS hospitals and clinics were told not to use any more and to return stocks.

The implants, introduced in cosmetic-surgery clinics after ever, silicone implants have been cleared after two govrnment inquiries and an independent review.

David Sharpe, chairman of quite worrying for patients with the implants, because they are gel, so they are more sensitive to the issue." In cases where the oil leaked and formed the "emulsified product like yoghurt" which collected in the breast, it could cause inflammation. "It's a natural oil out in an unnatural place and it's not behaving in the way they thought it would." Jeremy Met-

ters, deputy Government Chief Medical Officer, said all women with the implants should consult their doctor for advice but there was no need for them to take immediate action unless they experienced symptoms. "There has been no evidence of permanent injury or harm to health. However, on the precautionary principle we consider that no more of these devices should be implanted."

Dr Metters said investigations were continuing so that further advice could be given to women who already had the implants. For women who are worried, the Health Department has set up a help line, which will be open for the next three days, on 0800 004440.

The latest warning will renew fears about the safety of all breast implants, which have been the subject of multi-million lawsuits in Britain and the US. The warning was issued by

the Medical Devices Agency, which tests medical equipment. 1995, were promoted by private In advice to the Health Department it said investigation of scares about the safety of the women affected by rupture of older, silicone gel devices. How- the implants had found that the chemical breakdown of the oil leaking into the breast was "significantly different" from that predicted during pre-clinical testing. "This breakdown the Breast Special Interest results in some biologically ac-Group of the British Association tive substances, the toxicology of Plastic Surgeons, said: "It is of which has not been adequately evaluated."

The swelling associated with the ones scared about silicone rupture of the implants could be due to local inflammatory resoonse. "The local swelling is believed to resolve once the ruptured implant has been re-

Vicki Allanach, adviser on women's health to the Royal College of Nursing, said: "It is

after two Government inquiries



Elaine Coomber wonders whether to leave in her soya oil implants or have them removed Peter Macdiarmid

implants. We should not get it hear from the Medical Devices out of proportion."

The implants are manufactured by the Swiss company Lipomatrix. Before its purchase by Sierra Medical Technologies in November it was a subsidiary of Collagen Aesthetics International, the UK suppliers. Lipomatrix and Collagen Aesthetics issued a joint statement saying that Trilucent implants had "a very good safety profile".

David Cooper, managing di-rector of Transform, the country's market leader in cosmetic surgery, said women who had received soya-oil implants should not panic. "Like everyan anxious time for women but this is a very small number of one else, we are awaiting to icone.

but there could be "rippling".

not hidden during screening.

Agency to see what the next step will be ... I have received assurances from the Department [of Health] that there is no reason to panic. This is a precautionary measure taken be-

plants has decreased recently as women have become less worried about the danger of sil-

cause people's health comes Mr Cooper said Transform would arrange for worried clients who had received Trilucent implants to get reassurance from the surgeons who had carried out their operations. According to Transform the demand for Trilucent im-

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Stone faces flood of lawsuits

THE UNITED States Supreme BY ANDREW GUMBEL Court opened the way for a pos- in Los Angeles sible barrage of lawsuits against the film Natural Born Killers and its director, Oliver Stone, after it ruled yesterday that Mr Stone's right to free artistic expression did not protect him from allegations that the teenage killing spree depicted in his movie incited reallife violent crimes.

breasts and collagen lips usually instant.

For four years, the family of a Louisiana woman shot and paralysed in her convenience store by two teenage runaways as sought to obtain damages from the makers of the film but has been challenged at every turn by the defendants, who claim that depictions of violence on film are protected by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The Supreme the grounds that it might

Harrelson and Lewis

Court, however, refused to strike down a ruling by a Louisiana appeals court that said the film was not protected, on

store-owner, Patsy Ann Byers, was attacked by the teenage daughter of an Oklahoma judge and her boyfriend who, according to the plaintiffs, staged an armed robbery on the store shortly after seeing Natural Born Killers on video.

The ruling could have broad repercussions for filmmakers in general, who have weathered severe criticism from politicians and the families of crime victims but have never yet had to answer in court for their depictions of vi-

olence on screen. Natural Born Killers has been dogged by controversy since its release in 1994. Starring Juliette Lewis and Woody the television news.

have incited "imminent lawless Harrelson as a pair of deranged teenagers sinking deeper and In the Loiusiana case, the deeper into graphic violence, it has been accused of spawning copy-cat crimes in the US, France and Britain. In the wake of the Dunblane massacre in 1996, Warner Bros decided to suspend its UK video release indefinitely.

Mr Stone has always defended the film, saying it examines the very problem that it is said to personify - the relationship between suggestive, violent images on screen, and actual flesh-and-blood violence. The film uses several techniques, notably fast cutting and video footage, to underline this theme, and shows the couple becoming grimly fascinated with their own portrayal on

BREAST SURGERY 59 59 59

'I was ill and in pain... I wanted them removed'

ELAINE COOMBER accepted By JEREMY LAURANCE the advice of her cosmetic surgeon four years ago to replace the silicone implants she had had for 20 years with the Trilucent soya bean oil devices. Now the fears about silicone

she thought she had put behind her have returned to haunt her after yesterday's government health warning about the new implants. "I was told they were a safer

alternative. I can't believe 1 had it done. But at the time I felt confident in the surgeon."

Miss Coomber, 53, of Hextable, Kent, said she was shocked by the news that the implants had been banned. "But I am not surprised because of the stories I have heard of other women having is, if you don't have symptoms, don't panie, if you do, go to a doctor." In 1995, Miss Coomber set up

a self-help group, Survivors of Silicone, after experiencing persistent problems with her original implants, which ruptured and adhered to her breast tissue. "I had had children and I decided I wanted an uplift. I was lucky the implant was small. If it had been larger I don't know what might have happened.

"I had been having problems with leakage of the silicone and then I heard stories about had pain in the breast area. I de-

cided I wanted them removed because I was worried." Her new implants brought

little improvement, however, and she now faces the decision of whether to leave them in place or have them removed. "They have been painful ever since. The question I would like to ask the Health Department is why they didn't do proper testing before they let them on to the market."

David Sharpe, professor of plastic surgery at Bradford Royal Infirmary and an expert on breast implants, said the concerns about silicone were unfounded and that new implants using other materials had been marketed to frightproblems. My advice to women ened women in an aggressive

> "It is very alarming for women. Many will want to be replanted. I don't use them (soya bean implants] because I strongly believe in silicone. If a patient doesn't trust me enough to use silicone I would rather send them elsewhere." Silicone gel breast implants

were banned in the US in 1991 after a series of court cases claiming they caused connective tissue damage and a range of other conditions. However, subsequent investigations have failed to demonstrate a link between the implants and disother problems. I was ill and ease and they have never been banned in Britain

A coople (main and female) both non-amoleus, aged 23, applying for a PEP mortgage of £80,000 secured over 25 years on a property with a purchase price of £87,000. Assuming a discounted mortgage completed on 16th May 1959 with conveyancer's charges £117.50, valuation fee £165, mortgage discharge fee £50, deeth discount of 2.55% finish interest £89.33 and also that mortgage repeal at end of nortgage term and interest rate of 3.65% 3.7% APR applies throughout the mortgage feat. (In practice, the discount of 2.55% looks part 2011 and we charge our full variable base rate from then oe, this is currently £.55%.) Monthly mortgage payment £17.00 after its relact, assuming the present per present and feature payed to £114,472. Calls way be assumed and econded. You must be aged £8 or over and give us a mortgage over your gropers; We may need additional mortgage assumity. We will take into accountly our pursonal and featurest economic account your pursonal and featurest economic account your pursonal and featurest electrometraces and the value or price of your property. These and the product you choose will affect hew must we lead you, how much contribution towards valuation feet valuation in a scalar will be not recommend and featurest payed and represent the you have been payed to the second second your pursonal and featurest payed will be constituted and the product or offer its only available to customers remortgage and all hame hayers. Our products and offers are subject to conditional, We can will make you an approach feet. The purgoment feet payed as a personal payed of the special rate bein amount. We have earlied out the APRs assuming that the rate applies throughout the mortgage program feet. The property can be seed of the special rate bein amount. We have earlied out the APRs assuming that the rate applies throughout the mortgage program feet. The property can be less of the special rate person.

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Control of the special rate local amounts property.

* YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

FROM SILICONE TO SOYA: TYPES OF IMPLANTS Silicone gel: the commonest Hydrogel: sugar, starch and implant, in use since 1962 but water in a jelly-like state, a banned from cosmetic surgery synthetic version is available. after a health scare. Reprieved Offers a more natural effect,

Cancer screening can be and an independent review. Cohesive silicone gel: more complicated. Jelly-like and slightly firmer. Soya Bean Oil: a natural Saline: filled with salt water, product in use since 1993 commonly used in the US. The thought (until now) to be safe. shape and feel are less realistic The filling is a natural fat, than silicone gel and the outer which is excreted naturally if case can crease or wrinkle. there is a rupture. Less realistic Deflation after a rupture - said than silicone, it is Pamela Anderson: New to occur in one in 10 cases - is "radiolucent", breast tissue is



Jane Fonda: Facelift and breast implants

Tagging of child offenders planned

vices are to be fitted to children Home Affairs Correspondent as young as 10 under proposals being considered by the Home

Secretary, Jack Straw. The controversial plan to introduce child tagging nationally has been drawn up by year 2003, a rise of 58 per cent. the Government's Youth Justice Board in response to an an-should be mixed with boys in a ticipated explosion in the number of young people being locked up by the courts.

The board yesterday pre-

report on juveniles in custody, which predicts that the numbers of such youngsters will increase by 1,564 to 4,275 by the

It also proposes that girls planned new network of child jalls, provided that "girls are not in a small minority".

and placed in juvenile units. The report calls for the new

home detention curfews which allow adult prisoners nearing the end of their sentence to go home early provided they wear a tag - to be extended to offenders aged 16 and 17. It is hoped that this will reduce the numbers in young offenders' institutions.

Tagging for those aged 10 to Girls of 17, who are cur- 15 would aim to keep youngrently held in adult women's sters off the streets by impos-

prisons, should be removed ing strict curfew conditions, in be fully evaluated next year. No. the day and become active dur-Greater Manchester.

Lord Warner, the Home Office adviser who chairs the hoard, said yesterday: "It looks as though this will offer a ma or a badge of honour," she promising alternative for some offenders. Assuming they work well, we will want to extend their use.'

A Youth Justice Board spokeswoman said that the child-tagging projects would

about how such devices are viewed in the school playground. "We don't know whether a tag is seen as a stig-

In Greater Manchester, 50 children aged between 10 and 15 have been given electronictags, monitored by Securicor Custodial Services. They are over the child, which it apworn to school and throughout pears they are not able to do.

line with court orders. The idea obvious flaws have emerged ing the hours of curiew, trig-is being tried in Norfolk and though some fears remain gering an alarm if the child leaves home.

Harry Fletcher, of the National Association of Probation Officers, said that the idea was

He said: "What you have got is unruly children who invariably come from undisciplined families. To work, it will need the parents to exert influence

in secure units also raised se-rious concerns among penal held together in the same esreformers.

Frances Crook, director of "Most of these girls are highly vulnerable.

"They are often drug addicts who may well have been abused by males throughout their lives. You have to treat these factors with enormous

But the report states: There

The plans to mix girls and boys is no reason in principle why tablishment, provided that there are high levels of staffing the Howard League, said: and a reasonable gender balance."

Earlier, at yesterday's Youth Justice Board conference, Mr. Straw announced a grant of £50m over three years for the second phase of the board's funding for programmes that change the behaviour of young

Librarians in 'below stairs' revolt

OUTSIDE THE British Library, By MARY BRAID Evan Eabry, a PhD student. was grappling with the striking staff's startling revelations of

conditions underground. While the intellectuals sit in comfort in the swish reading rooms on the huge, new library's upper floors, staff picketing the building yesterday claimed that in the bowels of the building they are forced to toil like men down the mines.

Mr Eabry wondered if the lishment at St Pancras in central a faceless, lumpenproletariat slaves underground, servicing the rich living in luxury above.

After all, said Mr Eabry, a student at the London School of Economics, he had no idea what went on four floors beneath the ground. He just waited for the workers to deliver books in the

ken yesterday. The reading rooms, which attract hundreds of academics every day, were determined not to cross a picket line, cancelled the launch party for her new book, The Complete Woman, last night

Yesterday, leaflets criticising conditions were all the workers

were delivering on a 60-strong picket line. So yes, they admitted, library staff could stand up on the library's lower floors. But these floors - where 12 million books are stored in rooms as large as football pitches - had nothing in common with the library's stunning surface entrance with its huge atrium of creamy Portland stone.

According to Public and Combeautiful, pristine £520m estab- mercial Services Union officials, workers have to cope with arti-London could be compared to ficial light, extreme tempera-Fritz Lang's 1927 cult science fic-tures and constant deafening tion movie Metropolis, in which noise from the mechanical booksorting system. And a huge increase in users adds to pressure.

tiful bits of the building," one picket said. "The architects certainly did not have us in mind when they designed the building." The strike, he said. was called because plans to library's promised record time. split the workers into two No records were being bro- grades would result in some spending more time below.

The decision by the British Library to close the reading rooms for a week was a blow to some people. Trudie Gorr had just flown in from Australia to spend a week in the famous reading rooms researching for her PhD thesis on Roman his-



Pickets at the British Library in central London yesterday. They say working on the lower floors is like being down a mine Andrew Buurman

find out if the strike would really continue all week.

"It is a bit disappointing," she said, laughing at the understatement. "My history professor used the library just before tory. Yesterday the Melbourne Christmas and thought it was

to come and use it. It is a long way to come and not get in."

months ago, years late and millions of pounds over budget, was taking no blame for the strike. conditions in the old library." Jane Carr, director of public af

just fantastic. He said I just had fairs, said that talk of mining-like conditions was a "ludicrous" distraction. "The rooms do go The library which opened 18 four floors down but they are white, light, high-ceilinged and airy, a great improvement on

nothing to do with conditions. It centred on the library's attempts to negotiate more flex- But those on the lower floors. ible working hours to allow longer opening hours.

Ms Carr admitted that there would be less staff rotation be- terday was just the start of a

floors if a proposed new gradshe insisted, "regularly come up for air". Not often enough, according to the workers. Yes-

15 hurt in school minibus crash

By GARY FINN

A TEENAGER was flown to bospital with serious head injuries yesterday after a school minibus overturned in a collision with a car on the Newbury

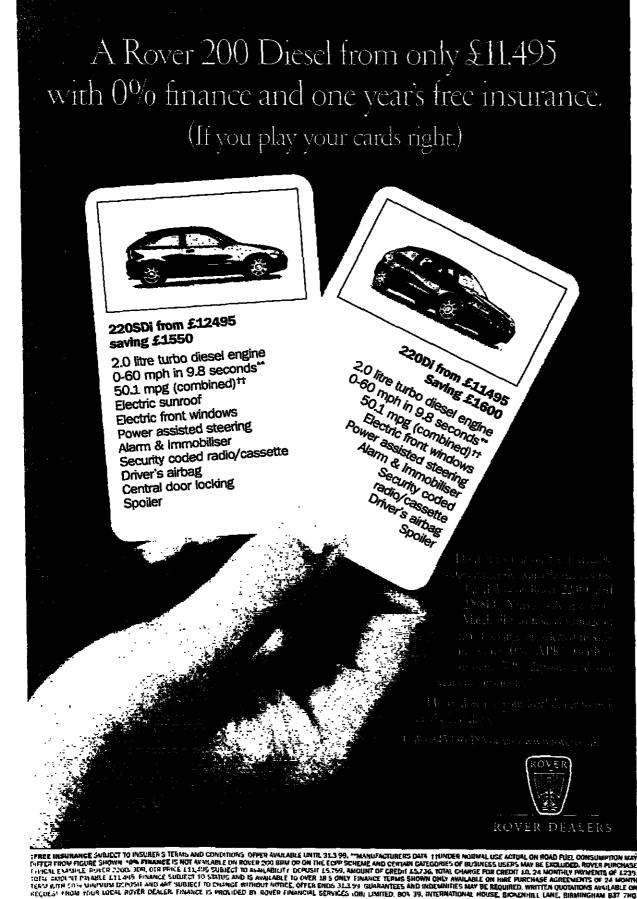
Two teachers and 12 children aged 15 to 18 were also hurt. Ambulance crews who took them to North Hampshire Hospital at Basingstoke said they

were "walking wounded" . The crash was at the Tothill roundabout on the northbound carrisgeway, near Burghclere, on the Hampshire/Berkshire border. A police belicopter took the youth to the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. Five other vehicles crashed amid the debris on the carriageway.

The minibus was from a school in the Midlands. The woman driver of the other car. a Rover Metro, was unhurt.

The carriageway was closed for almost an hour while the wreckage was cleared, causing massive tailbacks.

The boy of nine who escaped with minor injuries in a crash that killed his father, mother and teenage sister on Sunday was named yesterday as Mark Thompson. His father Philip Thompson, 41, mother Carol, 42 and sister Jayne 14 died when their Land Rover Discovery collided with a lorry near Swal-



Warrington/Runcorr Washington TERMS & CONDITIONS: Prices shown are per room based on one night stay, single or double occupancy, fully inclusive of tax and service. Offer available at listed hotels to 30th April 1999. Stay Friday, Saturday or Sunday night. All reservations subject availability with a Himited number of rooms available at these el rates. Bookings to be made via Central Reservati xior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or special promotion. Posthouse hotels es the right to suspend this special offer at any time without prior notice. Any confirmed or quaranteed box cancelled after 2pm on day of armal will be liable to a non-arr be released at 2pm on day of arrival.



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FAVOURITE READING OF THE 1990s

15 hurt in school minibus crash

THE INCH PENDENT

BY GARLES A Little Annie il Marie in Malitolia infairmath a contra heating Association with a soluattention openations in 200 adding to the same tall the News The trader of the Later to the the works also in

Arthuration of the wife by them to North Barriers here of the material safety With William worded The country of the leg-Carrie H. American St. D. St. Co. on the M. we whole

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to service report

versity, will be published on Thursday in a new book, Chil-Coles replicated a study done

than they were a generation ago but have abandoned 19th-

century classics in favour of

Roald Dahl and Sue Townsend.

favourite book for 10 to 14-

year-olds was Little Women by

Louisa M Alcott. In the

Nineties, it is Dahl's The BFG.

The only author to maintain a

decades was Enid Blyton.

ommanding position in both

In the Seventies, the

On average, children of all ages surveyed in 1994-95 had read 2.52 books each in the month before the survey, compared with 2.39 in 1971. Only among 14-year-old boys has

the amount of reading declined. Dr Coles said yesterday:

CHILDREN ARE reading more By JUDITH JUDD **Education Editor**

> sion in writing and marketing of books for children. They are getting more choice and they are choosing contemporary books. Children are buying books in supermarkets and at newsagents, and the cover of a Point Horror book looks more appealing than a Dickens.

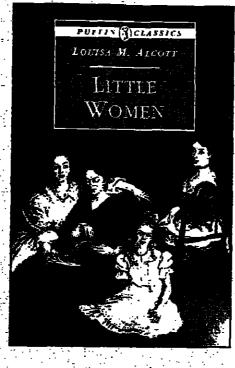
"But a lot of classics are still The findings, from a survey being read: one in six among of nearly 8,000 children by reour top 200 is what most adults searchers at Nottingham Uniwould consider a classic, often connected with a TV series.

"Children's taste in books is dren's Reading Choices. Dr amazingly edectic. One girl had Christine Hall and Dr Martin read an Enid Blyton, Cinderella, a book on Having a at Sheffield University in 1971. Baby and a Beginners' Guide to Feminism in the previous

CS Lewis appears in the top 20 favourite authors for all ages in both surveys. Charles Dickens and Agatha Christie have slipped back in the Nineties but are still among the 30 most pop-"There has been a big expan-ular authors."

FAVOURITE READING OF THE 1970s

ه يحدا من الاصل



Top ten books for 12-year-olds in the Seventies

Little Women Black Beauty Treasure Island Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe Jane Eyre Heidi Oliver Twist The Secret Seven

The Silver Sword

Tom Sawyer

C. S. Lewis Charlotte Bronte Johanna Spyri Charles Dickens Enid Blyton lan Serraillier Mark Twain

Potter did not come out in time untary reading choices." to be included. The authors ensuring that children are in-

Bestsellers such as Harry ture prominently in their vol-

Among older pupils, the argue: "A strong case can be comics of the Seventies have made for the importance of given way to magazines and newspapers. More 12-year-olds troduced to classic texts in (18 per cent) read The Sun than assume a "sexual knowingschools since they do not fea- The Beano (12 per cent). By the ness" that adults may find un-

Louisa M. Alcott

R. L. Stevenson

Anna Seweli

Top ten books for 12-year-old girls Top ten books for 12-year-old boys in the Nineties

Point Horror series Sweet Valley series Babysitters Club Matilda The Witches The BFG The Twits Charlie and the Chocolate Factory Adrian Mole What Katy Did series

age of 10, 12 per cent of children are reading The Sun.

Just 17 is the most popular magazine for teenage girls. In the Seventies, it was Jackie. Teenage girls' magazines today

comfortable but not more so than an evening's television viewing, says the book.

The BFG

Illustrated by

QUENTIN BLAKE (S

Various

Francine Pascal

Ann M. Martin

Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl

Roald Dahl

Roald Dabi

Roald Dahl

Sue Townsend

Susan Coolidge

The BFG

The Witches

Asterix series

Jurassic Park

The Twits

The Hobbit

Matilda

Point Horror series

Adrian Mole series

They are also "textually educative".

Boys are reading more magazines than they did 25 years formation and statistics. Coles. Routledge, £12.99.

ago: their favourites cover football and computers. Dr Coles said: "Schools need

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

in the Nineties

to recognise what children read quite rich" and "potentially out of school. Boys who say they can't read are reading periodicals densely packed with in-

Schools put too much emphasis on narrative." He suggested that the diet of narrative girls thrived on at school might not equip them for work Children's Reading Choice by Christine Hall and Martin

Reald Dahl

Roald Dahi

Reald Dahl

Roald Dah!

Roald Dahi

Sue Townsend

Rene Goscinny

Michael Crichton

J. R. R. Tolkien

Various

Ingham bound over to keep the peace

ON THE COURT schedule he By KATHY MARKS was listed simply as Mr Bernard Ingham, stripped of his knighthood with one stroke of. a clerk's pen. And when he sat down, only his bushy grey eyebrows were visible over the edge of the dock.

All in all, yesterday's ap-Thatcher's former press sec- of justice. retary. But Sir Bernard – as he

emerged from it completely unchastened. Charged with criminal dam-

age to a neighbour's Mercedes, he agreed to be bound over to keep the peace for 12 months. But he still proclaimed his inpearance before Croydon mag- nocence, said he regretted istrates should have been a nothing and portrayed himself humbling experience for Lady as the victim of a miscarriage

It was a quintessential Engshould properly be described - lish neighbours' dispute that

caused Sir Bernard's "unforconduct", as Julius Capon, the prosecuting solicitor, put it yes-

For 11 years he had been engaged in a bitter feud with court heard yesterday. Barry Cripps, a builder, and his wife, Linda, who live next door tree-lined suburban street in Purley, Surrey.

Sir Bernard, 66, has objected to a series of home improvements, including the

tunate descent into disgraceful Cripps's back garden. But it stabulary, summoned to the was a row over rights of way at the back of his detached bungalow that made him finally blow his top in December, the

Espying Mr Cripps stray on to his land while reversing a silto him in Monahan Avenue, a ver Mercedes SLK into a garage, Sir Bernard "started to shout and gesticulate".

He then allegedly kicked the car and, when Mrs Cripps drew his attention to this, replied-

building of a sauna hut in the "Good, I'm glad." Croydon Conscene, were left in no doubt as to the stature of the man with whom they were dealing. When charged, the defendant enquired of them, haughtily: "Are you sure you want to do this?"

Sir Bernard, a broadcaster and columnist described his solicitor, Graham Pithouse, as "a person perhaps of some substance", as he glowered at the defiance. "It is ironic that I am courtroom while his alleged here, because I have sought Bernard Ingham. Let's hope sins were recounted.

shy of voicing an opinion, he was strangely taciturn. Told by Ray Dann, chairman of the magistrates, that he was to be bound over to the sum of

sharply. "Yes, it is," replied Sir Afterwards, on the steps of the court building, he exuded

In an unexpected development, Sir Bernard later delivered a cheque for £792 to the £1.000, he nodded curtly. "Is that Cripps family to cover the dama 'yes'?" asked Mr Dann. age that he denied he had

"But that's life."

hold decent people's rights and

the planning system," he said.

Mr Cripps said: "We are weary of the constant bombardment that we have suffered. We are no match for Sir

Ingham: Unchastened on with our lives peacefully." Given their opponent's track

record, that seems highly

And finally, a safe, dull start despite the graphics

FIRST NIGHT ITV EVENING NEWS

EVER SINCE Kirsty Young came out from behind her desk on Channel 5 news, other television news operations have been worrying that they look too stuffy and formal hence the uncomfortable sight of Jon Snow and Kirsty Lang on Channel 4 news lounging awkwardly in armchairs and wondering what to do with heir hands.

With the revamping of ITV's news operation - "A new era for ITV", as the continuity announcer modestly put it – it was a fair bet that we would be getting something a little more elaxed, a little less starched: Trevor McDonald perched on a barstool, sipping a Scotch and drawing on a tab, or with Val Doonican-style rocking-

chair and jumper. In fact, Trevor did come out from behind the desk, but only for a few seconds after the commercial break, to introduce a story about teenage girls smoking: a tantalising flash of trouser rather than the



Trevor McDonald's broadcast of the new ITV news

Full Monty. It was left to the cious look to the studio, and ro-ITN economics correspondent tating computer graphics, with to step out and perform a dainty pas de deux with a computerised image of the Chancellor's red box as it scooted around the screen this was apparently intended as a way of taking the viewer's mind off what she had to say about today's Budget.

Otherwise, the innovations consisted of a new, more spa-sense of occasion, with an ex-

clusive interview with Gordon Brown: the Chancellor expanded on Sunday's remarks about a Budget for the family, adding that it would also help jobs and enterprise. And, scoop, the first pictures

of the failed British roundthe-world balloon attempt crashing into the Pacific - this sounded a more spectacular than it looked. The adventuring theme continued with the "And Finally", which had David Hempleman-Adams preparing to walk, unaided, to the magnetic North Pole.

The spirit of adventure did not communicate itself to the ITN news team. Reporting from Argentina on the Prince of Wales' impending visit, Nicholas Owen concluded that it might indeed be "sensitive in parts"; while Katie Derham, discussing Monica Lewinsky's tour of British bookshops, predicted that: "This American woman faces enormous interest from the

of them, obviously, and still British public." ending with "And Finally". In All in all, as new eras in between, there was a halfbroadcasting go, this one looked very safe and very dull. hearted attempt to create a ROBERT HANKS

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Martians found in meteorite

SCIENTISTS HAVE discovered By STEVE CONNOR that Martians do exist. A life form has been uncovered in Antarctica that has been feeding on "Martian food" for many thousands of years.

The organism is a common terrestrial microbe that has lived deep inside the cracks of a Martian meteorite, which fell to earth 13,000 years ago, landing on an ice-sheet at the South Pole. Scientists believe the microbe has lived off the meteorite's organic carbon molecules, which originated when Mars had liquid water, and possibly life, of its own.

"Under the principle 'you are what you eat, it could be described as a Martian," said Dr Science Editor

Andrew Steele, a British scientist who made the find while working at the Johnson Space

Center in Houston, Texas. Dr Steele left Britain two Martian food," Dr Steele said. years ago to work with the scientists at the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) who announced in 1996 that they had found signs of life on the Martian me-

teorite known as ALH84001. But instead of finding a Martian microbe, Dr Steele came across a type of terrestrial bacteria belonging to a group called the Actinomycetes, a

everywhere on the planet. the past because scientists had "It must have lived deep inside the rock and could only tection methods. have got its food source of car-

bon from the meteorite itself. It is the only known organism on earth which has been eating techniques that claim to be

The results of the two-year investigation into the ALH84001 meteorite will be released next week at the Lunar and Planetary Science Conference in Houston, where Nasa scientists will continue to argue that the meteorite shows genuine signs of extra-terrestrial life.

microscopy techniques, said

the kind of rotating globe that

the satirical TV programme

The Day Today poked fun at.

ness as usual: still starting with

the bongs, though not as many

Mostly, though, it was busi-

Dr Steele, who analysed the meteorite using sophisticated

been using inappropriate de-"In the particular case of

ALH84001, a terrestrial organism went undetected by all the able to detect life," he said. **Meteorites from Antarctica**

were once thought to be free from earthly contamination because of the pristine state of the frozen continent, but this is no longer the case. The discovery of the microbe could be bad news for Nasa scientists in search of genuine Martians. It will make it more difficult to convince a sceptical world that their meteorite evidence of life

Baby killed by 'tired' doctor's error

A NEWBORN baby died be- BY RACHEL CROFTS cause a tired doctor missed out a decimal point when pre-

an inquest was told yesterday. Dr Christiaan Slabbert told police his failure to "retain the decimal point" more than 14 hours into a 24-hour shift led to Benjamin Adams receiving a massive overdose of the cardiac

told the baby's parents, Carl scribing a heart-slowing drug, and Tina Adams, he was "sorry" when he appeared at the inquest in Kidderminster,

Dr Slabbert, who now works in Arkansas, in the United States, refused to answer questions on the advice of his barrister, but when asked by the The South African doctor Adams' family solicitor, Paul

thing to the parents, he replied simply: "I'm sorry".

Tina Adams, 25, who now has a nine-month-old son, broke down as the doctor left the witness box.

Benjamin was just a few hours old when he was given 10 times the recommended dose of Digoxin at Alexandra hospital. Redditch, in April 1997. The blunder happened after the

Balen, if he wished to say any- beby developed respiratory and Digoxin at 10 mcg per kiloproblems and a fast heart beat gram the inquest heard. shortly. He had been born by

Caeserean section on 25 April. Doctors at the hospital's paediatric department sought advice from cardiologists at Birmingham Children's Hospital, who recommended the drugs adenosine and Digoxin.

Adenosine was to be prescribed at a rate of 100 mcg per kilogram of the baby's weight

The dosage was written on the patient notes by the senior physician, Dr Neel Kamal. Dr Bridget Wilson and Dr Slabbert were left to write up the prescription, the hearing was told. The adenosine was administered by Dr Wilson and began

to improve the baby's condition. The Digoxin was then administered by nursing staff

statement to police at the time of the incident, Dr Slabbert, 38, said he had been fired when he made the mistake, and was on his second 24-hour shift during the week of the death.

The statement read: "I had had a demanding day. I was on duty for a 24-hour period. There was a degree of tension due to the bed and staff shortage."

working from the prescription The doctor, who told police written by Dr. Slabbert. In a he had "no real experience" of prescribing intravenous cardiac drugs, was called to several births, received referrals from GPs and attended to patients in casualty during his shift, before being required to

write the prescription. He told police: "I then made the calculation but inadvertantly failed to retain the decimal point.

"I was quite tired, having been on duly since 9am the previous morning and working continually without much of a break, I had not even been able to have an evening meal."

The Alexandra Healthcare Trust has admitted liability (1 the family of Fir Trees Close, Batchley Redditch, have received 27,500 compensation, the maximum payout for the death of a child.

Cabbies in revolt over imposition of 48-hour week

BY DARIUS SANAI

BYTHE Great Plague burial pit next to Smithfield Market in London, William Hayter was outlining a prophecy of doom: a capital city where taxis are near-impossible to find and prohibitively expensive.

Mr Hayter, talking between sips of tea, was imagining what might happen if the European Commission goes ahead with plans to regulate taxi-drivers to a 48-hour week. "I'm sure a lot of the drivers would have to leave the business and the costs would inevitably be passed on to the customers," Mr Hayter said from the driver's seat of his taxi.

A typical four-mile journey now costs £10 on a weekday. Fares could rise sharply under the proposed regulations.

Once, if a passenger desired an animated soliloguy from the driver, he would have to bring up the subject of immigrants, or cvclists. The latest pet hate, though, is the European Commission, which wants to bring taxi-drivers in line with other workers subject to an average maximum 48-hour week, and restrict the hours they can work at the most lucrative

times of all, the evening shifts. News of the plans is just reaching London's 17,000 licensed black-cab drivers and. according to those outside



David Lane: Golden days of cabbing are receding

Beppe's Cafe by Smithfield Market, the result could be rather more tangible than a general upturn in front-seat xenophobia.

Under this nightmarish scenario, black-cab drivers would be more reluctant than ever to take passengers south of the river, thousands of cabbies would go out of business and, as fathers discourage sons from following in their tyre don's most enduring traditions would be jeopardised.

"You just wouldn't be able to afford to buy a new cab," said

people who don't own their own cabs and have mortgages to pay off would suffer the most; it just wouldn't be profitable." The cost of selfregulation, by attaching tachographs to meters, and the attendant bureaucracy, would also be passed on to the

Black-taxi drivers are all self-employed, either owning or hiring their cabs and choosing their working hours to suit

Many, particularly younger drivers determined to make quick money, work more than 60 hours a week, much of it at the peak times of Friday and

Saturday nights. The average earnings for a London cabbie are £12 to £16 an hour. It is higher on lucrative journeys but is balanced out by time spent waiting at airports and stations or cruising at quiet

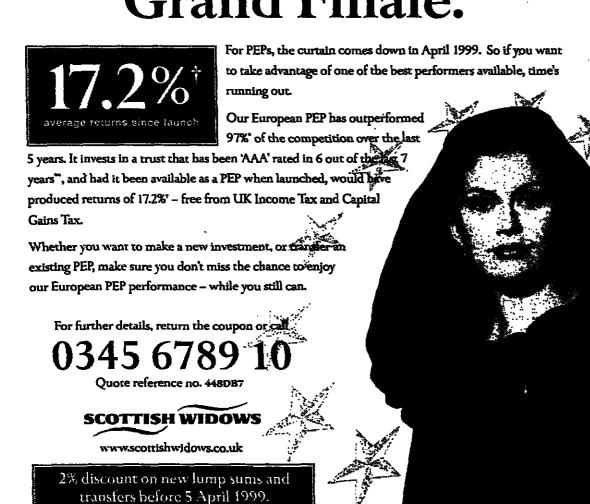
With a new taxi costing £28,000; and a five-year-old one costing £190 a week to hire, with added maintenance costs, cabbing is not the lucrative trade

As Mr Saffer said: "It used to tracks, the basis of one of Lon- be a great trade but there are so many other ways celebrities and interesting people get around now It's not what it was and I wouldn't advise my sons Aubrey Saffer, who has been dri- to do it. The regulations would ving taxis for 30 years. "Young make it even more difficult."



William Hayter, a London cabbie, believes the working hours regulations would make taxis scarce and prohibitively expensive John Voos

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Beware the brochure-speak for a true guide to holidays

WHEN IT comes to picking a By Kim SENGUPTA holiday, it is not what the brochure says, but what it does not, that can trip up the unwary,

according to a new report. True, your room may well have "stunning views", but they may be of a wasteground or concrete and scaffolding. "Ideally situated" may mean there is indeed a beach on one side -but there is also a council tip on the other. And for "lively", read "a distinct possibility of lager-swilling teenagers throwing up with disco music blaring

all night in the background". In fact, holidaymakers are being subjected to "wildly misleading" descriptions of the kind of resorts and hotels they can expect from travel compa-Holiday Which? It said: "We

purple prose, but the omissions and economies with the

One who would agree is Peter Kilfoyle, the minister for public services. He is taking Thomson, Britain's biggest tour operator, to court to claim compensation for a family holiday allegedly ruined by a number of features not in the brochure. These included a flight being delayed and re-routed, and a half-finished hotel.

Mr Kilfoyle, whose ministerial post makes him responsible for the government charter-mark project, which sets standards for organisations, also claimed that a letter nies, according to the Con-sumers Association magazine, telephone calls were put through to disconnected lines found the biggest problems are and correspondence was lost not the euphemisms and the Holiday Which? has published

speak" to aid the unwary. This includes: "developing or fastexpanding" - noisy and dusty, with building works everywhere; "ever more popular" even noisier and more crowded than last year; "due for completion" – still being built; "just

within a few feet. Patricia Yates, editor of the magazine, said: "You should be able to rely on brochure descriptions, but our research has shown that frequently the brochures are keeping people in the dark." The Consumers' Association advises holidaymakers to consider making claims if their experience does not match the brochure description and to be persistent

with their complaints. Trawling through hotels and resorts, the report said: "Every

now and then we come across

a crash course in "brochure a hotel that's beyond belief The Horizontes Copey Resort from "It's like a council block beside the M25" to "Our holiday turned into the the biggest and most expensive disappointoff the main road" – traffic ment we have ever had

In Crete, it is true that the Irene Apartments in Stalis is "just off the main road", as Sun set Holidays say. But Holiday Which? says that it is only "too true - because, in fact, sitting by the pool, you are a mere 35

The King Minos Palace hotel in Hersonissos is, according to First Choice, "just 200 metres slog from the beach back to the

IN BRIEF

Kubrick died of natural causes

STANLEY KUBRICK, 70, died of natural causes at his home in Harpenden, Hertfordshire, a post-mortem examination found yesterday. The film director, whose credits include A Clockwork Orange and 2001, had just completed his latest project, Eyes Wide Shut.

Courts 'powerless' in Fayed case THE SOLICITOR GENERAL told three appeal judges

yesterday that the courts have no power to try the Harrods owner, Mohamed al-Fayed, for libel in an action brought by the former Conservative MP, Neil Hamilton, because a finding by Parliament could not be questioned.

Jolly conductor on the right track A CHURPY train conductor has been told he can carry on

brightening up passengers' journeys despite a manager complaining that he was not sticking to announcement guidelines. Bob Anderson, 35, from Newcastle, greets people on Northern Spirit trains in six languages.

The flayour of Britain

ORDNANCE SURVEY this week launches its Gazetteer of Great Britain, the most comprehensive yet with 258,000 place names - dozens with a culinary flavour such as Pudding Pie Nook in Lancashire, Mushroom Green in the West Midlands and Hungry Hill in South Ayrshire.

\$1.2bn fraudster begins appeal

breaking the Bank of Credit and

He was found guilty of fraud and false accounting at the Old Bailey in 1997 after a 122-day trial that cost £ 4.5m. Gokal, 62, was also ordered to pay £ 2.9m within two years, or face three

more years in prison. One of the main grounds for the appeal are the circumstances under which Gokal ended up in court. He was arrested in July 1994 in Frankfurt, Germany, when his flight from Karachi to the US stopped for

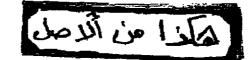
Sources stated at the time that the district attorney's of-

THE MAN jailed for 14 years for By KIM SENGUPTA

Commerce International took fice in New York had offered his case to the the Court of Aphin a plea bargaining deal and peal yesterday. were said to be furious at the Abbas Gokal, a Pakistan- Serious Fraud Office. John born shipping tycoon, had si-phoned off \$1.2bn in the \$20bn district attorney, had written to Gokal's lawyers: "I have spoken to the prosecuting authorities in the United Kingdom. They tell me that they have no current plans to arrest Mr Gokal when he meets with us."

Gokal's Gulf Group, a Middle East-based shipping company, was the biggest borrower from BCCL He and his two brothers Mustafa and Murtaza, who are living in Pakistan, once controlled more than 100 vessels.

Gokal's appeal is led by Alun Jones QC, who acts for the government of Spain and is one of Britain's foremost authorities

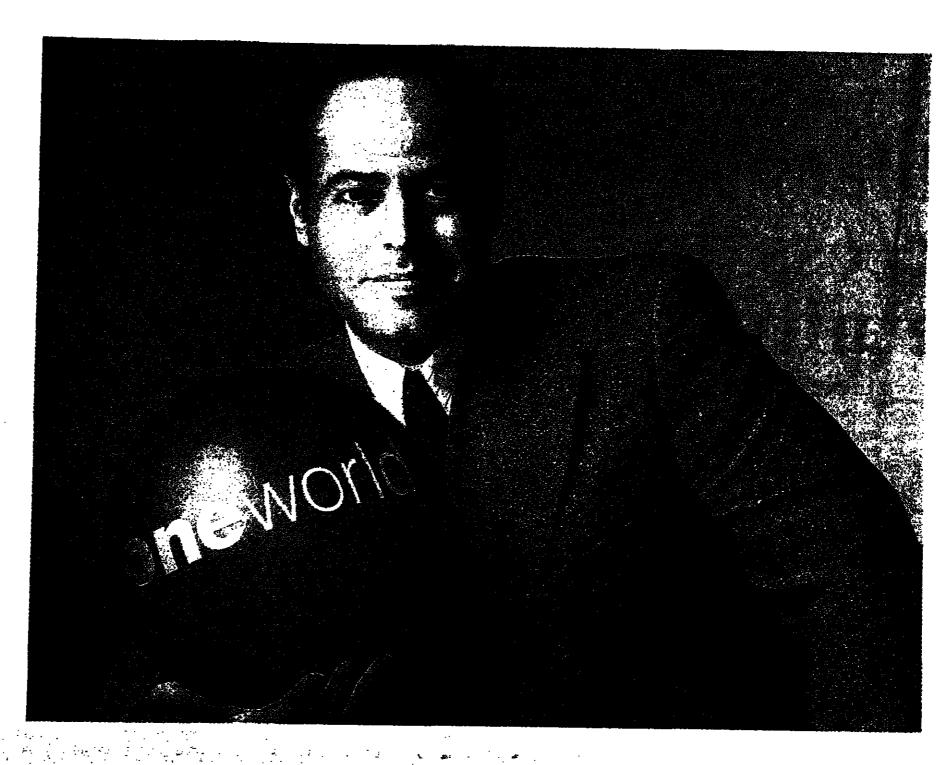


THE INDEPLYING NOT NOT BELLEVILLE



re-speak holidays

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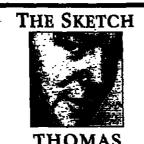
Deep breaths of socialism put a spring in Labour's step

bench deflate in front of your eyes. It happened to the Tories yesterday when MPs gathered to hear Michael Meacher read a statement about the Government's plans to give people greater access to the countryside. The advance word had been that New Labour was retreating from the idea of compulsion. but it soon turned out that this had been canny backspin. Squaring up to excoriate the Government for not keeping a manifesto promise, the Tories discovered, to their obvious Mr Meacher said the magic words

SOMETIMES YOU can see a back "bring forward legislation", Labour what he will look like embroidered bench defiate in front of your eyes. members huzzahed and chortled at on to a trade union banner, leading loudly enough, indeed, to mask the a glorious sunset. And even the crucial words "as soon as parlia- most suspicious backbenchers mentary time allows" - a phrase were in a mood of giggly jubilation. that could mean anything from

next month to sometime in 2015. deep lungfuls of the bracing socialist ple will be free in perpetuity" and to excoriate them for keeping it. As from the Attlee government, you would clear away "any remnants of can tell that he is half thinking about 18th-century oligarchy". It wasn't

the glum faces of their opponents, a march of cagouled ramblers into "I feel kind of warm towards New Labour at the moment," said Gor-But Labour backbenchers were don Prentice, before offering his pritoo exhilarated to notice, taking in vate member's Bill to the minister as an early coportunity to press the air that blew around Mr Meacher's legislation through. Barry Jones. remarks. When a Labour minister carried away by the revivalist spirtalks about ensuring that "the peo- it of the occasion, asked the minister to assure him that legislation dismay, that they were going to have alludes to landmark legislation would also apply to Wales so that it



SUTCLIFFE

clear why it should be the 18th century, except that it sounded so impeccably wicked - a time when shotguns and gintraps would soon

sturdy ramblers, eyes bright with the beauty of nature as they planted a boot into the face of privilege. Their opponents saw an advancing army of olks in shellsuits, annoying sheep and distressing innocent. ground-nesting birds which would. if nature was allowed to take its course, be blasted from the sky six months later, as God had always intended. Where Labour talked of "rambling" and "roaming", placid and contemplative activities, the Plaid Cymru MP Elfyn Llwyd referred contemptuously to people "traipsing" around the countryside,

put paid to unwanted intruders. a verb that conjured a picture of a formed of the temporary closures Labour members saw a vision of surly, foot-dragging excursion - that landowners would be allowed pathway erosion personified. Con- under the legislation - would the servative members would probably newly accessible countryside be have gone even further had they not been nervous about their appearance. To listen to them talk, Mr Meacher had just announced his attention to pass a Right to Loiter With Conservative members asked

two pertinent questions: Edward Garnier pointed out that both the European Convention and Labour's Human Rights Bill required compensation for any dilution of rights of property, and Peter Atkinson asking how the public would be in-

invisible behind a rash of signs? Others may occur later. If, as Mr Meacher said, gardens were to be exempt from the regulations, you can imagine there might be a bit of a rush on down at the local garden centre - "I'd like to order 83 miles of herbaceous border, please, and four gross of assorted garden gnomes". But for the majority of MPs this wasn't a day to cavil at details. It was one to admire the splendid view - including that sparkling stretch of clear blue water.

Ramblers to get access 'in perpetuity'

the only way to ensure that four million acres of countryside are opened up to the public "in perpetuity", Michael Meacher, the Environment minister, deciared yesterday.

In a Commons statement, Mr Meacher said the Government would bring forward legislation on the issue as soon as Parliamentary time allowed, many," he told MPs. and he expected that before the next general election.

To the cheers of Labour MPs, he said he was committed to meeting his party's manifesto pledge on a freedom to roam for walkers and ramblers across mountain, moor and heathland in England and Wales.

But the opposition accused the Government of "class warfare" and warned that the measures would be overly bureaucratic and could ruin the environment.

tory right would be balanced by "proper and reasonable limitations" and would not apply to developed or agricultural land. A law was needed because

BY PAUL WAUGH Political Correspondent

the voluntary approach to opening up the countryside had delivered "relatively little" over the last 50 years.

"Glorious parts of our heritage are still the preserve of the few, not the delight of the

"Only a new statutory right will deliver cost-effectively the extent and permanence of access we are seeking.

"We are now convinced that legislation is the only way to make sure people will be free in perpetuity to explore open countryside."

Mr Meacher said there was no question of giving people a through other people's gardens", and Local Area Forums would address concerns and isside areas

Gillian Shephard, the shadow environment secretary, said voluntary agreements between landowners and ramblers were

A STATUTORY right to roam is **THE RIGHT TO ROAM** a much better way of gaining increased access. Mrs Shephard, amid barracking by Labour MPs, said: "We deplore that you have sought to alienate the very people who have done so much to promote access in all parts of the country.

"It is regrettable, although perhaps only to be expected from someone who has talked about land-owning as 'exclusivity' and 'inherited privilege', that you should squander the goodwill which those in the countryside have sought to bring to this issue."

Mrs Shephard demanded compensation for landowners and farmers for costs of access and loss of land value.

She added: "You have produced a solution which has the "right to trample over crops or potential of satisfying no one. It will be cumbersome, it will be bureaucratic and it will further divide town and country. It Mr Meacher said the statu- sues over "fragile" country- is a squandered opportunity."

Matthew Taylor, for the Liberal Democrats, said the minister's statement was "a big step from notional rights to



Tony Banks, the Sports minister, launching the 'Show Racism the Red Card' video at Leicester City Football Club yesterday. 'Racism has no place in football,' he said, adding that Parliament was considering legislation making it an offence to chant racist abuse

Kiron Ridley

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Inquiry into why women are paid less than men

AN INVESTIGATION to establish why women's pay falls behind men's was promised by the Government yesterday. Tessa Jowell, minister for women, said that by the time women reached their mid-50s they only earned 65p for every pound

men earned. She hailed the Government's strategy to improve the lot of women as a "programme of listening, a programme of action, a programme of delivery. It is not just what government women working with government and in their communities can achieve for themselves and their families.

the 73rd International Women's avoid making policy on their Day, the Government's han- own; they should make it with dling of women's issues was

QUESTIONS

AND

ANSWERS

Weekend polls THE GOVERNMENT is considering holding council elections at the

weekend in response to

in local polls, George

Buy-back aid

be reimbursed 35 per

cent of the costs when

homes to help buyers in

buying back council

financial difficulties,

it was announced by

Hilary Armstrong.

the Housing Minister,

Widows' might

THE GOVERNMENT will

consider compensation

claims from people who

were misadvised by the

Social Security minister,

Stephen Timms, said.

Social Security

Department about

widows' pensions, a

LOCAL AUTHORITIES will

minister, said.

concern over low turnout

Howarth, a Home Office

FEMALE RIGHTS
By Sarah Schaeper **Political Reporter**

criticised by Harriet Harman, former social security secretary, who accused ministers of "macho rhetoric". After Peter Mandelson's resignation there had been talk of getting in "big hitters, big beasts and big guns" to deliver its message, Ms Harman said. "You can either adopt macho rhetoric or talk like women do - you cannot do both. This government is for women; they should not be afraid to say so."

Calling for more female cabinet ministers, Ms Harman But, during a debate to mark said: "The Government should women." Female ministers

should be given a higher profile to promote key measures such as the right to take leave when their child was ill, due to be introduced under the Employment Relations Bill. "We have not heard a whisper about this new right ... it has been squeezed out by debate about

trade-union recognition." Theresa May, the Tory women's spokesman, accused ministers of putting rhetoric over substance, saying that since Labour came into power the pay deferential between men and women had gone up.

The new Working Families Tax Credit would bring more families into the welfare net, she said, while entitlement to widow's benefit had been cut, with up to 250,000 women like-

"This Government has not listened to women," she said. "Its priorities are more about its own priorities than women's priorities." Her concern was echoed by Jackie Ballard, for the Liberal Democrats, who said benefit cuts under the plans for welfare reform would hit women harder than men. "The impact of legislation should be carefully examined to

ensure gender equality." But Ms Jowell pointed to a series of measures such as the increase in childcare benefits, the National Carers' Strategy and the introduction of the National Minimum Wage, which had already helped women.

Mr Brown is expected today to unveil a "Budget for families" that hands more state help to

Tories decry 'failed' New Deal scheme

THE GOVERNMENT'S New Deal programme was attacked by the Tories after it emerged that only 3.8 per cent of lone parents invited to enter the scheme got jobs after doing so.

After the publication of January's figures, which showed the success rate had dropped from 7 per cent, Iain Duncan Smith, the Tory social security spokesman, accused ministers of wasting £200m on the initiative. Since the programme was set up, 163,383 letters have been sent to lone parents inviting them for an interview but

only 6,262 got jobs as a result. Under the Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill, now going through Parliament, lone parents will have to attend interviews with benefits staff or

have their benefits cut. During question time Mr Duncan Smith added that a fifth of lone parents who did get jobs left them after six months.

BY SARAH SCHAEFER Political Reporter

"The whole New Deal for lone parents has proved nothing more than an expensive failure. This is because ministers did not listen or study the project properly," he said.

The figures were published as the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, was expected to expand the programme to over-50s in his Budget today.

A big extension of the New Deal, seen as a vital plank of the welfare-to-work initiative, with the creation of 60,000 places for long-term unemployed, was announced in the November pre-budget statement.

Earlier this month it was disclosed that 43 per cent of the young unemployed who enter the education and training option of the New Deal find jobs, down from 47 per cent.

THE HOUSE

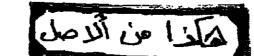
Some 350,000 genetically

modified animals were produced and bred in the UK for scientific experiments, the Home Office minister Lord Williams of Mostyn said.

Today's agenda Commons; 2.30pm;

Questions on Environment, the Regions and Transport; Budget speech by Gordon Brown; Budget debate opened by William Hague, Debate on longterm care funding. Lords: 2.30pm: Trustee Delegation Bill; Commonwealth Development Corporation Bill; Debate on European report on airline competition; Births and Deaths Registration Bill; Obscenity Bill; Rent

Acts Order.



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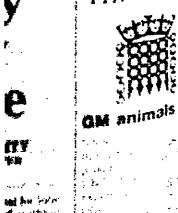
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player wins £2m A YOUNG man left paralysed BY GRAHAM HISCOTT from the chest down when a scrum collapsed near the end of an ill-tempered rugby game received nearly £2m compensation yesterday in an out-of-

court settlement. Team captain Ben Smoldon, the incident eight years ago. He won a battle for compensation when in a landmark High Court ruling in 1996 Mr Justice Curtis found the referee was

negligent in his handling of the In yesterday's settlement Mr Smoldon, of Sutton Cold-

field, West Midlands, received £1,950,000 from the Rugby Football Union. He was happy with the outcome of the case, his solicitor, Terry Lee, said .

"It has been a long and difnow aged 24, broke his neck in ficult struggle, but the sum will now provide him with the financial security he needs for the rest of his life," Mr Lee said.

Mr Smoldon said yesterday: "I want to get back to rugby again, hopefully managing move out of home, live with my partner and hopefully have





Saint Laurent heir shows few graces

THE PRESSURE WAS ON Alber BY SUSANNAH FRANKEL Elbaz at the Paris collections yesterday. In November – amid blazing publicity - he became artistic director of the Yves right. Saint Laurent women's ready-

to-wear line. Monsieur Saint Laurent, 62 and perhaps the most imporpart of the 20th century, would concentrate solely on his twice-yearly haute couture col-

lection, we were told. This decision was controversial given that it was Yves Saint Laurent who put the concept of designer ready-to-wear on the fashion map. Until he opened his Rive Gauche boutique in the late Sixties, fashion comprised haute couture - hand-crafted clothing, at prices few women could afford

and cheaper copies run up by dressmakers who stole the original designs.

in evidence - the 'le smoking',

Fashion Editor, in Paris

should not be elitist. He was Elbaz, the 37-year-old de-

signer, has said: "The day it [his own appointment] was announced was one of the sadtant designer of the latter dest days for me because I thought about Monsieur Saint Laurent. I thought, 'How does he feel?' How does Monsieur Berge [the designer's longtime business partner] feel? Because it is their baby. They built it and now they are gen-

> give you a chance'." Relations between all parties continue to be good. Alas, yesterday's show - which, as always, saw the Saint Laurent muse Catherine Deneuve taking pride of place in the front row - was a disappointment. True, the Saint Laurent signatures that Elbaz promised to keep intact were much

erous enough to say; Alber, we

based on men's suits and introduced by Saint Laurent in 1968 to relieve women of overblown eveningwear, the sheer chiffon blouses with pussycat bows at their collars, the vivid colour palette.

In this younger designer's hands they looked clumsy nowhere near as well-cut as the originals. The colour palette though brave - fuchsia, flame, ultraviolet, and bright apple green - was jarring, simply too hot for comfort.

The collection admittedly looked more modern, which must be the intention. Notable exceptions to an unexceptional debut included chic chalkstriped skirt and trouser suits. a red leather trench coat and coat dress.

Elbaz - who worked for the American designer Geoffrey Beene, then Guy Laroche - has some way to go to can live up to the mighty Yves Saint Laurent. This is not surprising. His is a tough act to follow.

and orange satin trousers; tweed trousers with a matching tweed top Alarms ignored at cell death jail

THE CHIEF Inspector of Pris- BY IAN BURRELL ons has published a damning report on the "unacceptably bad" conditions in a jail where a management trainee was stamped to death by his schizophrenic cellmate.

Christopher Edwards, on remand facing a public order charge, could be identified only by his dental records. He was killed on his first night in Chelmsford prison in 1994.

A three-year, £1m inquiry uncovered multiple errors by the authorities, including the failure of prison officers to respond to Mr Edwards when he pressed the emergency call bell in his cell.

During checks at the prison last October, Sir David Ramsbotham, the chief inspector, tested the call bell system three times, and no prison officers responded.

In his report, he said: "The failure of staff to respond to call bells came in for severe criticism in the official inquiry into the murder of Christopher Edwards, by another prisoner, on his first night in prison. We looked to see whether that les-

son had been learnt. "We spent some time on the induction wing and tested the cell call system on three sepavate occasions. It was working out staff failed to answer any of the calls. This was totally unacceptable. Staff should respond to the cell call system and check the welfare of their pris-

oners frequently." Sir David went on: "There can be absolutely no excuse for this, and I am staggered that, in view of what has happened, and of which staff allegedly were ashamed, it should still be the case. It must make me question staff's understanding of the Prison Service's own Statement of Purpose, and their determination to carry out their tasks in the way that the public has a right to expect of

Mr Edwards, who had a de- prepared near a toilet.

Paralysed rugby

Home Affairs Correspondent

gree in Japanese and economics, was killed by Richard Linford, a paranoid schizophrenic who had been identified by doctors as a potential killer.

The chairman of the official inquiry said neither man should have been in prison and referred to a needless and tragic loss of life" brought about by "astonishing" failures by health and social services.

Linford is now in Rampton special hospital. The parents of Christopher Edwards are seeking compensation for their son's death and taking their case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The director-general of the Prison Service, Richard Tilt, said: "I am concerned, as Sir David is, about the apparent failure of the cell call bell

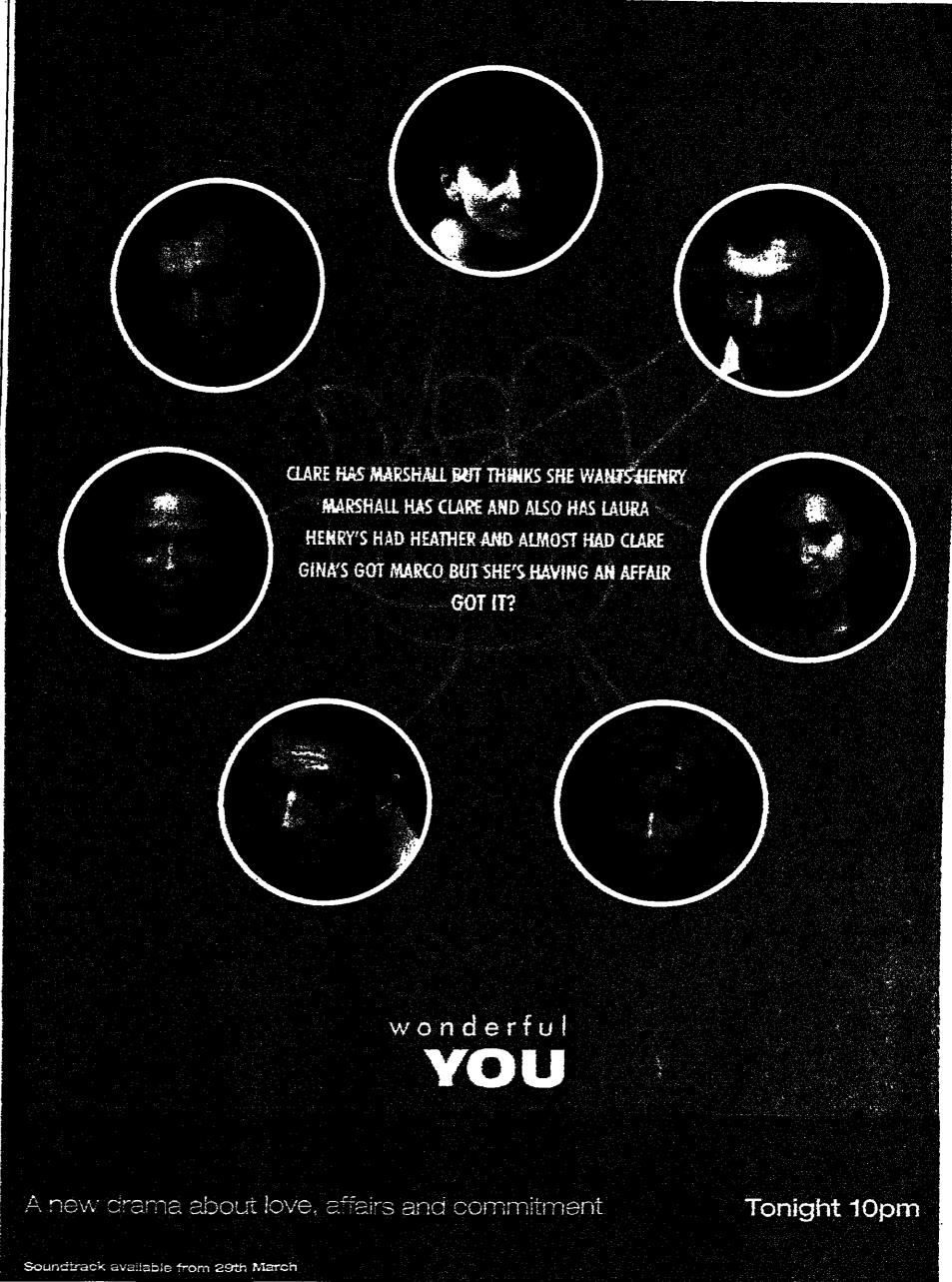
"The governor of Chelmsford has now issued strict instructions to prisoners and staff, stressing the dangers of abusing the system and the importance of responding to alarms promptly."

Sir David was so concerned by the "fundamental" failings in management, cleanliness and health care at Chehnsford that he has promised to take the unusual step of returning in a year to see if improvements have been made.

He said: "The areas requiring immediate attention were reception, the induction programme, improvements to health care, the development of a young offenders' programme and the visits area."

The chief inspector said part of the problem was that the prison had four governors in four years.

He was also concerned by a lack of hygiene. Gutters were littered with pigeon corpses, walls were covered in stains of organic origin" and food was



tv gets better



King considered cancelling tour of Commonwealth



George VI: Concerned

FEARS OF political unrest and By Paul Lashman instability in post-war Britain have been revealed in letters between King George VI and Clement Attlee, the prime minister. As royal correspondence. the letters were not due to be opened for 100 years but under the new policy of accelerated release they have been opened early by the Public Record Office in Kew.

In a letter dated 1 September 1951 the king writes from Balmoral Castle of his concern about a planned Common-

wealth tour. "As I said at one of our talks in the summer (and you agreed with me), it would be very difficult indeed for me to go away for five or six months unless it was reasonably certain political stability would prevail during my absence." It is signed "I am, Yours very sincerely, George R."

In mid-1951 Attlee faced mounting industrial unrest. Engineers, railwaymen, miners, agricultural workers and

manding higher pay. The King was also concerned about the actions of Mohammed Mussadeq, prime minister of Iran, which had nationalised the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company.

And there had been tension between Britain and Egypt over the Suez Canal. The king was worried about sailing through it. "Our unhappy relations with Egypt may, if they persist, oblige me to adopt an

In the event, Labour's trou-

builders were among those de- bles were such that an election was called on 19 September and Churchill and the Conservatives were elected in October.

> King George was already ill and tells Attiee: "There are plenty of worries at present to vent one enjoying anything. I am better for my time up here, though the weather is cold."

In a letter dated 6 September, he writes: "I am going to London, for the doctors want me to take more X-ray photographs that they cannot take

King George never made he died on 6 February 1952.

-Another file released yesterday, dated 1963, shows that the Duke of Edinburgh had already started his habit of annoying people with off-the-cuff remarks, having claimed that exporters were being out off by the inordinate amount of paperwork involved ...

In internal prime minister's correspondence, Harold Macmillan showed that he was irritated about Prince Philip's

the tour his health declined and had made at a luncheon over what he described as a tangle of controls concerning export

Macmillan had a briefing sent to Prince Philip with the accurate facts and figures regarding export controls, showing that 80 per cent of exports required only one form to be completed and that the prime minister was auxious to demonstrate that exporters were not being put off by ex-

cessive paperwork.



Sarwar

cleared

of poll

Mowlam show is hit with nurses

MO MOWLAM paid tribute yes- By JEREMY LAURANCE terday to the staff who nursed her when she was diagnosed as having a benign brain turnour in January 1996. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had months of gruelling radiotherapy treatment before being pressures of work and a divisive

given the all-clear in 1997. Ms Mowlam told delegates at the Royal College of Nursing's annual conference in Harrogate, North Yorkshire: "It is terday - fearing, perhaps, a re-not just about statistics. It is peat of the booing that greeted with patients. For patients, that is what it is all about.

"I know this from a personal experience when I had treat- ing a treaty-signing ceremony relationship made a big difference to my confidence about when I have visited hospitals ly warmly received. that what nationts are desperate to get across is to say what good work the nurses do."

Ms Mowlam's speech was a

Health Editor

cheers from a disgruntled RCN, burdened with staff shortages on the wards, increasing pay award.

The Secretary of State for Health, Frank Dobson, stayed away from the conference yesabout the relationship you have his appearance last year. In his place, Ms Mowlam, who had flown in from the Irish Republic where she had been attendment two years ago. The at Dublin Castle, delivered a witty, confident performance that paid warm tribute to the efgetting through it. I know from forts of nurses and was equal-

you" to the nurses in Northern Ireland whose commitment and contribution she had seen triumph for the Downing Street at first hand. "They've had some horrific jobs to face. They bly the only cabinet minister can be faced with an atrocity in to the job," she said.



She offered a "special thank" Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, praising nurses at their annual conference in Harrogate yesterday

an inhuman and barbaric form and they will never know when the next one is coming. It adds a degree of stress and tension

Nurses had played a "phenomenally important" part in helping the people of Omagh recover after the bombing that killed 29 last August, as they had

killed and 40,000 injured in the to do the household shopping troubles over the past 30 years. "If you have tried to match fin- policy. gers, hands and bits of body together, that trauma doesn't go away," Ms Mowlam said.

For some people the peace process, while outwardly welcomed, resurrected old traumas that needed new responses. When families became aware the violence was ending the problems they had coped with came to the fore again," she said.

Ms Mowlam's speech, peppered with self-deprecating asides – including an account of how she had introduced her personal bodyguards to "multi-

done for the families of the 3,000 skilling" by sending them out a patient and having political responsibility for a part of the UK - was, however, thin on new where nurses had to do more and go further. She did nurses

> of the scheme to allow nurses to prescribe a limited range of drugs, an end to short-term made clear they are crucial to contracts and new measures to the Government's plans for the introduce family-friendly working conditions. Speaking at a press confer-

ence later, Christine Hancock, general secretary of the RCN. said that she had sent the invitation to address the congress to Ms Mowlam, an old friend, last autumn.

"She brought the phenomenal experience of having been

fraud BY NICK MEO

THE LABOUR MP Mohammed Sarwar was acquitted yesterday of a charge of fraud relat-ing to the addition of names to the electoral register.

He denies three remaining charges, two allegations of attempting to pervert the course of justice and one of understating election expenses.

At the High Court in Edinburgh, Lady Cosgrove acquitted him after a withdrawal of the charge by Advocate Depute Duncan Menzies.

The move came as the Crown case was closed on the 29th day of the trial.

The MP's co-accused, Mumtaz Hussain, 41, from Lesma- (hagow, Lanarkshire, denies one charge of attempting to pervert the course of justice.

Mr Sarwar, 46, of Pollokshields, Glasgow, became Britain's first Muslim MP when he was elected for Glasgow Govan in May 1997.

Weeks afterwards the News of the World claimed he had paid an election rival a £5,000 cash "bung".

The charge Mr Sarwar was cleared of had accused him of responsibility for adding to the electoral register the names of people who were not qualified to vote in the constituency. The Crown alleged that several Asian individuals had used late application forms to register, at Mr Sarwar's bidding.

It also emerged that he had been forced to give a police interview on the day he had planned to make his first speech in Parliament on December 5 1997.

An investigating officer admitted that fact during questioning and added that police had been unhappy with 36 ap-

plications from late voters. The trial was adjourned until

PC 'lay in wait to kill woman'

BY BRIAN FARMER

A POLICEMAN lay in wait for his former girlfriend, squirted CS spray in her face then stabbed her to death, a court was told vesterday.

Owen Palmer, 55, a police constable from Norwich, had been "harassing" Christine Johnson, 36, for 15 months before killing her last August, Norwich Crown Court was told. Less than a year before the attack, Mr Palmer had been warned by Ms Johnson's solicitor that he could face legal ac-

tion for "stalking" her. Charles Wide QC, for the prosecution, said Mr Palmer had been unable to accept that his relationship with Ms Johnson, a care assistant, was over He had waited outside her home in Norwich, armed with a knife and CS spray.

Neighbours and Ms Johnson's parents heard screams and found her dead in the garden. She had suffered "awful wounds" to her neck. Mr Palmer was seen leaving the scene smiling. He went to the police station where he worked and told a senior officer he had murdered his girlfriend.

Mr Wide said the issue was not whether Mr Palmer had killed Ms Johnson, but whether he had been suffering from a depressive illness, which meant his responsibility for her death was impaired. He denies murder and the trial continues.

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the honour of coming to the con-

gress at an incredibly difficult

time, paid tribute to them and

However, she said that there

were also problems in the Na-

tional Health Service. "Not all

is going well. There are short-

ages, pressures of work, and

people are feeling demoralised.

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-some give positive messages

but in others people feel very

undervalued."

NHS," Ms Hancock said.

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Beatrice de Castelman and Vincent Julhiet at yesterday's trial in Paris, displaying a picture of their sister and mother, Laurence Penon, a stewardess killed in the UTA flight 772 explosion Francois Mori/AP

Europe accuses US of starting war over trade

THE EUROPEAN Union yes-terday accused the United in Brussels States of "declaring war" on countries it judged were trad-

With the rhetoric in the "banana war" becoming tougher on both sides of the Atlantic, Europe's ambassador to the World Trade Organisation, Roderick Abbott, said the US acted illegally in effectively imposing sanctions on \$520m (£325m) of EU goods. America was "declaring war on any or all WTO members whose compliance [with WTO decisions] it decides is inadequate", he said.

But Washington showed no sign of concession. Its special ambassador, Rita Hayes, insisted responsibility for resolving the dispute lay with Europe. Although yesterday's meet-

ng was not expected to resolve the conflict, some diplomats fear the gathering of the General Council, the WTO's supreme body, may have made both sides more entrenched. Behind the tough talking

AND STEPHEN GOODWIN

there were signs of tension on the European side. Tony Blair's attempt to mediate directly with the US President, Bill Clinton, caused controversy as some European nations, including France, made clear they op-

posed striking a quick deal.

Many member states be lieve concessions to the US before 12 April, when the WTO is set to rule on the dispute, may simply vindicate America's

tough stance.
"Blair can try to talk but I'm not sure it would be a good deal; in fact I believe it would be a had deal," one European diplomat

The WTO is to rule both on the legitimacy of the EU's banana import regime, which the US says discriminates in favour of producers in former European colonies, and on the extent of any compensation to be awarded against the EU.

Renato Ruggiero: WTO is against imposed rulings

Washington is claiming \$520m. European diplomats are confident that if the trade organisation does award compensation, it will be less than Washington demanded - perhans \$150m to \$200m. Any concessions should be left until after this, they say.

The EU called yesterday's meeting in Geneva in the hope of winning support from other members of the 134-strong WTO. Its chief, Renato Rug-

US decision to go ahead with sanctions when he said: "We seek a solution to a problem firstly by mutual agreement and not by imposing rulings on

either side." Many envoys voiced anger at both sides in the dispute, which now threatens to undermine WTO rules. "They are playing with fire, and we could all be burnt," said one.

The dispute is already hitting Hawick, a Scottish Borders town dependent on the export of cashmere sweaters. Johnstons, one of a dozen textile factories in the town, was due to send 500 sweaters to America vesterday but has put the order on hold until the uncertainty over duty is resolved. The US has said it will ask for bonds of 100 per cent

Rony Rathie production man ager said unless Johnstons could guarantee payment of the duty his US customers would look elsewhere - which means China. Gavin Esler, Review, page 4

Libyans tried in absence for bomb

SIX LIBYAN officials, including BY JOHN LICHFIELD the brother-in-law of the Libyan leader, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, are on trial here in their absence, accused of blowing up a French aircraft over Niger in 1989.

They are charged with murcrew, including four Britons, on UTA flight UT 772 from Braz- less complete case exists zaville to Paris on 19 Septem-Libya orchestrated the attack as part of its territorial war with French-backed Chad in the Seventies and Eighties. But hostilities were nearly settled at the time.

There are superficial simi-



larities with the explosion of PanAm 103 over Lockerbie the previous December, an attack also blamed on Libya.

But there are many differences in the techniques and organisation of the bombings. The French authorities appear to have established a contents, or promising he clearer Libyan connection could leave the aircraft at a with the UTA explosion than have international investiga-

tors in the Lockerbie case. Charles Norrie, 47, whose brother Tony died on the the Libyan government. The French plane, said yesterday: "For the Libyans to be involved in both, you'd have to ties by Tripoli in a clumsy believe that, at almost exactly attempt to prove Libyan dissithe same time, they had two dents planted the bomb.

different kinds of explosives, Paris saw this as proof that different kinds of explosives, two different kinds of deto- the Libyan security services

GAVIN ESLER

in Paris

secret services." Mr Norrie, a civil party in the case with access to all court documents says he is convinced the French judicial investigation dering 170 passengers and has correctly identified the culprits. He believes a much against Libya for the Locker-

> But the United Nations has imposed sanctions on Tripoli for its failure to send two security officials to an international trial in The Hague over the PanAm 103 bombing, and for refusing to send the six UT 772 accused to the Paris trial.

The UTA six include Abdallah Senoussi, deputy head of the Libyan external security service, and brother-in-law of Colonel Gaddafi. He is accused of organising the plot to destroy the French plane, for motives which remain unclear.

One theory is that the Libyan secret services believed, wrongly, that a political opponent was aboard. An investigation by France's leading anti-terrorist judge. Jean-Louis Bruguière, has pointed to Apollinaire Mangatany, a Congolese dissident manipulated by Libya, as the possibly unwitting carrier of the bomb that destroyed the UTA DC10.

Prosecutors say two Libyan agents gave him a Samsonite suitcase containing explosives, either not telling him its stopover before the bomb was due to explode.

The German detonator was traced to a batch of 100 sold to suitcase was the same type presented to French authori-

nators, two different sets of had suitcases of the kind that personnel almost two different exploded over Chad.

Clinton babbles Europe

must 'play by the rules', but only US rules count

TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 4

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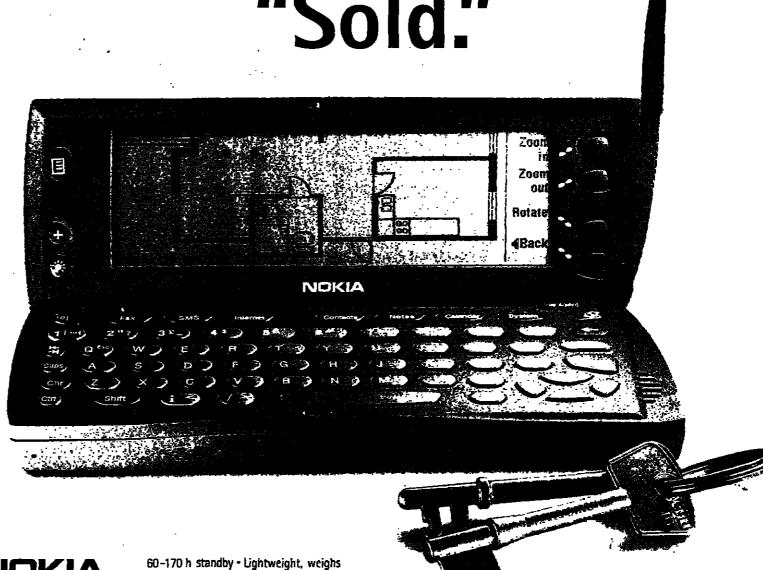
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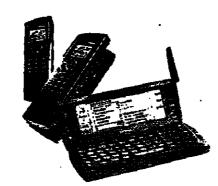
> Johanna Radeborn Estate Agent



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New York weeps for its finest son

NEW YORK bowed its head in BY DAVID USBORNE mourning yesterday for a man in New York who in life was closer to the city's soul than almost any fig-ure you can think of and who will always remain one of its most powerful and beloved legends. Joe DiMaggio, arguably the world's first sporting superstar, had passed away in

DiMaggio, who earned the name "Joltin' Joe" after securing his still unbroken 56game hitting record - the Streak - in the summer of 1941, died in the early hours of yesterday morning in a South Florida hospital after fighting a months long battle with lung cancer. He was 84.

While there were expressions of grief from across America, nowhere was the loss more deeply felt than in New York home to DiMaggio's

television station's yesterday aired tributes and played the Simon and Garfunkel song "Mrs Robinson", which laments "Joltin' Joe bas left and gone away".

Only last week, the owner of the Yankees, George Steinbrenner visited DiMaggio in Florida and invited him to perform the ritual of throwing out the first ball in the season's opening game in Yankee Stadium on 9 April. He was too weak then to respond. "He just smiled." Mr Steinbrenner reported vesterday.

DiMaggio was declared close to death several times over recent months since he had surgery in October last year. To its intense embarwork four weeks ago

accidentally aired a bulletin Michael Jordan and Muhamsaying he had passed away mad Ali. which it then immediately retracted.

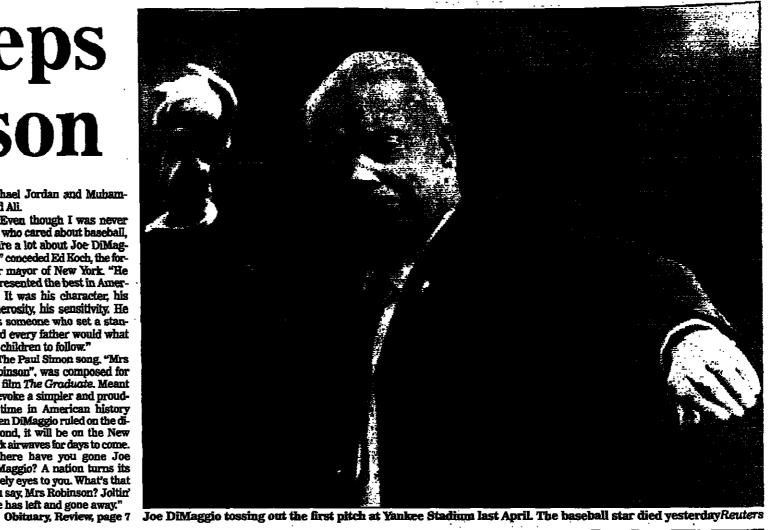
In spite of DiMaggio's fame. which deepened when he wed Marilyn Monroe in 1954 – a marriage that quickly soured and left him heartbroken - he remained always a shy and very private man.

"He felt uncomfortable with a lot of people, but yet he was always there as a tremendous representative of our game of baseball," said Tommy Lasorda, former manager of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Common to all the tributes

paid to DiMaggio yesterday was the notion of a star whose standing as a popular icon had long ago transcended the sport of basehall itself. He may be remembered in part as the rassment, the NBC news net-first of a category of superstars

"Even though I was never one who cared about baseball, I care a lot about Joe DiMaggio," conceded Ed Koch, the former mayor of New York. "He represented the best in America. It was his character, his generosity, his sensitivity. He was someone who set a standard every father would what his children to follow."

The Paul Simon song, "Mrs the film The Graduate. Meant to evoke a simpler and prouder time in American history when DiMaggio ruled on the diamond, it will be on the New York airwaves for days to come. Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio? A nation turns its lonely eyes to you. What's that you say, Mrs Robinson? Joltin' Joe has left and gone away."





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Women make history in **Oatar** election

THEY WERE separated from By JAMES ROBERTS the men by wooden screens, but the women of Qatar still made history yesterday when they voted for the first time in a nationwide poll. There were even six women among the 248 candidates competing in the country's first democratic elections since independence from Britain in 1971.

Qataris were voting for representatives on a new 29member central municipal council that is to give advice on food and public hygiene to the ministry of municipal affairs and agriculture. This may seem a modest democratic advance. but the elections are seen as a watershed. A national elected parliament is planned and yesterday's polls are a first step towards the legislature that is expected to be set up early in

the next century. Female voters turned up in greater numbers than men at many constituencies in the capmore educated than men, you know, and they are more eager to see the change," said one female candidate. The otherwise positive credentials of the eleclions were undermined, however, by the fact that only a small proportion of the whole population voted.

All Qatari citizens over 18 years of age, out of a native population of 150,000, were eligible, but according to officials only 23,000 registered in time. Police and defence personnel were barred from voting. Between 90 and 95 per cent of those eligible had cast their ballots in Doha by the end of polling and in rural areas turnout as polls closed was estimated at 60 to 70 per cent.

Qatar is a political maverick in a conservative region. The emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani, has said that people's participation in the affairs of state can accelerate economic and social development.

"March 8 will enter Qatar's modern history as the blessed start of an era of democracy and popular participation in the service of the homeland and its citizens," said the Prime Minister. Sheikh Abdullah bin Khal-

The role of women as voters and candidates is a first for the Gulf region. Kuwait, the only Gulf state that has an elected parliament, does not allow women to vote or run for office. Oman's consultative council has two female members, but the body is indirectly elected.

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And they're off...candidates line up early for race to the White House

BY MARY DEJEVSKY i Washington

WITH THE declaration of the Governor of Texas, George W Bush, on Sunday and that of Elizabeth Dole officially due tomorrow, the field of candidates for the two main parties in next year's presidential election is being hailed as complete.

A few stragglers may still be mulling over their prospects, such as the Rev Jesse Jackson for the Democrats, and the mayor of New York, Rudolph Giuliani, for the Republicans. But in the view of the Washington cognoscenti, they may already have left it too late. Almost two years before the victor crosses the threshold of the White House, the list - two De-Republicans is regarded as closed.

As of this week, the Democratic nomination is being contested by Vice-President Al Gore and Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey Among the Republicans who have thrown George W Bush their hats into the ring, aside from Mr Bush and Mrs Dole, are Senator John McCain of Arizona, the conservative campaigner Gary Bauer, former Vice-President Dan Quayle, and the millionaire publisher Steve Forbes.

The exceptionally early declarations for the 2000 election reflect two realities of the coming campaign. This is the first "open" contest for the presidency - with no incumbent Dunning – since the Bush-Dukakis election of 1988 at the end of Ronald Reagan's two terms. And because the last Congress failed to agree on the need for legislation, the campaign will be conducted without the benefit - or hindrance - of new limits on campaign financing, putting acute pressure on all candidates to raise as much money as possible as early as possible. The absolute minimum quoted is \$20m (£12.8m).

A precondition of being able to raise funds - which will start to sort out the probables from the possibles in the large Republican field - is to have a con-





verse composition of his ex-

ploratory committee showed.

and Vice-President Gore,

rather less publicly, are both

ahead of the field in this respect.

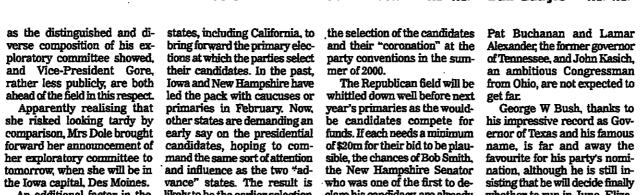
she risked looking tardy by

forward her announcement of

the Iowa capital, Des Moines.



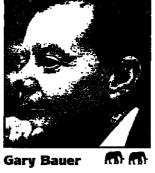




bring forward the primary elec- and their "coronation" at the Alexander, the former governor tions at which the parties select party conventions in the sum- of Tennessee, and John Kasich, mer of 2000.

John McCain

The Republican field will be from Ohio, are not expected to whittled down well before next get far. year's primaries as the wouldbe candidates compete for his impressive record as Govfunds. If each needs a minimum of \$20m for their bid to be plauname, is far and away the sible, the chances of Bob Smith. favourite for his party's nomithe New Hampshire Senator nation, although he is still insisting that he will decide finally An additional factor in the likely to be the earlier selection clare his candidacy, are already rated slim to negligible, while beth Dole, thanks to her famous the right-wing commentator





R Eliz. Dole R R Al Gore



an ambitious Congressman

George W Bush, thanks to

ernor of Texas and his famous

whether to run in June. Eliza-



is a not-too-close second. Nei-

ther, however, has campaigned

at national level before, and the

more experienced members of

the Washington punditocracy

note that either could trip up on

policy questions, if not on the

sort of scandal that almost

thwarted Bill Clinton's presi-

foul of some sections of the

party, including the religious

right, which has an influence in

the primaries that is out of

proportion to its influence

Mr Bush has already fallen

dential bid in 1992.







in the wake of the Lewinsky

Any candidate - Mr Bush in-

hurdle of the primaries before as president in a Gore-Bush

Although it is taken for appears - even if the candi-

granted at this stage that the dates' list is, to all intents and

contest.

cluded - has to surmount the

presenting himself to the elec-

torate and a Republican can-

didate who can survive the

primaries may not be the same

candidate who would be em-

braced by the country.

Forbes all fancy their chances Key to prospects

CONTENDERS

FOR THE

PRESIDENCY

with key elements of the party machine. Elizabeth Dole

s still a distant second. Mr Gore is still perceived

more important the charisma

factor becomes, the poorer

Senator John McCain of Arizona, a maverick Vietnam

war hero, can not be written

Hampshire Senator who was one of the first to declare his

The right-winger Pat

Buchanan has twice failed to

win the nomination already -

and Lamar Alexander, the

ennessee, is unlikely to

Kasich, the conservative

ampaigner Gary Bauer:

ormer vice-president Dan

survive the primaries. Ohio Congressman John

former governor of

candidacy, ought to be

as a wooden Indian. The

his prospects.

Bush's "compassionate

Outside chance (A) (B) Looking good

TITT BARB Hot favourite

among Republican voters in the Gore's for the taking, there are country, and may be enhanced rumblings in the party ranks

about his electability. He is run-

ning as much as 20 points be-

hind Mr Bush in polls that ask

voters whom they would prefer

So while many analysts are

aiready confidently forecast-

ing a Gore-Bush contest in

2000, others insist that neither

nomination is as certain as it

Woodward lawyers demand review after 'strangle' claim

early start to the campaign is of the contestants and a possi-

THE LAWYERS who represented the British au pair Louise Woodward in her Boston murder trial are demanding that the medical evidence surrounding the death of baby Matthew Eappen in February 1997 be fornally re-evaluated in the light f new claims that he may have een strangled.

The strangulation charge vas made by two doctors on BS television in the United sates on Sunday night. Woodwird, who had been caring for Matthew, was charged with violintly shaking him and slamming his head. She was found guity of manslaughter. Jer former defence team

was pondering last night wheher to request that the straigulation charges be formall heard in a new trial. Sucha trial could, if the defence were successful, lead to the exin New York

oneration of Woodward and the overturning of her conviction. "Frankly, the ball is in their court," said Martha Coakley, a Massachusetts District Attorney, who was one of the prose-

cutors in Woodward's trial. She said in a press conference that it was the responsibility of the lawyers to decide "if there was any merit or weight" to the doctors' assertions. Woodward's lawyers said in a statement: "The next step is

for both sides to test and verify the accuracy of this new medical information. We call upon DA Coakley and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner ... to co-operate in jointly conducted scientific tests to verify this new

In the CBS show, 60 Minutes,



Woodward: Manslaughter

Dr Floyd Gilles, chief of neuropathology at the Los Angeles Children's Hospital, said he had studied the medical evidence for six months. He concluded that somebody had pressed their thumbs against Matthew's neck and thus cut off

his brain. He was backed up by another doctor from the hospital, Dr Marvin Nelson.

Dr Gilles contended that the swelling and brain trauma that would follow such a strangulation could take up to two days to develop in an infant. The implication is that if Matthew was attacked 48 hours before his admission to hospital, there are others who could have been his assailant aside from Woodward

Ms Coakley said she had spoken to Matthew's parents. Sunil and Deborah Eappen. They are thoroughly distressed, just at a time when this case should have been past." Ms Coakley dismissed Dr Floyd's findings as "preposterous. No strangulation theory can begin to explain Matthew's extensive brain damage, skull fracture, and severe retinal bleeding."



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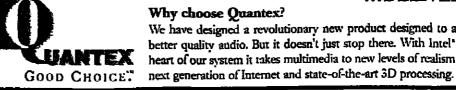
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IN BRIEF

Khatami begins first visit to West THE RANIAN President, Mohammad Khatami, begins his

first state visit to the West today since the 1979 Islamic revolution. During a three-day trip to Italy, Mr Khatami was expected to discuss trade issues and loans to Iran, which needs to attract investors to aid its economy.

Diner forced to hand in teeth STAFF AT at Het Polderhuis cafe in the Dutch village of Bant impounded a man's false teeth after recognising him

as a diner who fled the eatery last year without paying a 25-guilde (£8)) bill. They said the man handed over his bottom plate on Sunday "after a little persuasion."

France bans hunting of songbird THREE YEARS after President Francois Mitterrand ordered them for a last feast before his death, France has banned the hunting or sale of the ortolan songbird. Mitterrand ate two of the birds shortly before he died from prostate cancer in January 1996.

Thief pays high price for sin

A KENYAN thief who stole the collection at a Sunday service in All Saints Cathedral, Nairobi, was killed by a bus when he fied with his loot. The man sat through the service without arousing suspicions. When confronted, he ran out on to a highway and into the path of a bus.

Nurse 'killed her

of drugging her three young children and then suffocating them was ordered to be held without bond yesterday and received court permission for

a psychiatric examination. Marilyn Lemak, 41, seated in a wheelchair and dressed in a blue jail uniform, appeared expressionless during the hearing.

Her right forearm was heavily bandaged from what the authorities say was a suicide attempt, shortly after the killings, which took place last Thursday.

Judge Steve Culliton approved a request by Mrs Lemak's lawyer for a psychiatric examination, on the understanding that it will not determine whether she is fit to stand trial on murder charges.

However, David Lemak, an emergency room physician, allegedly told his father that Mrs Lemak had been in and out of

them to bed and then suffocating them by placing her hand over the mouth and nose of each child.

that the Lemak family, com-

a deep depression since the birth of their last child.

■ A man in Tennessee was so

broke down that he pulled out an AK-47 military assault rifle

three children' AN AMERICAN nurse accused By MARCUS TANNER

prising a father who was a doctor, a mother who was a registered nurse and three children ages seven, six and three. was picture perfect.

Mrs Lemak is accused of drugging the children, putting

angry when his Oldsmobile car

and shot it. Boyd Kelly, 39, was The killings have horrified neighbours in Naperville, a freed on \$2,500 (£1,560) bail suburb of Chicago. They say after police were called.

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Where women tune in to Russia's 'Oprah'

FOR THE typical Russian husband, who pays attention to his wife once a year, there was an alternative this International Women's Day to rolling home drunk and thrusting into her and show that she had somehands a bunch of wilting mimosa. He could roll home drunk and give her a copy of the new bestseller Women's Stories. The only snag was, she had probably been out already and bought the book herself.

Women's Stories is based on a confessional television series of the same name. It is hopeless to make a social engagement for a Tuesday evening, as all the bars are empty, the streets are deserted and the blue light of television screens flickers from every home. Russians are glued to a show hosted by the peroxide blonde Oksana Pushkina, the closest they have yet to Oprah Winfrey.

Each week, Pushkina interviews a famous Russian woman about her private life. There is no studio audience. They just have a heart-toheart chat. Compared with Oprah, the programme is tame. But it breaks ground in the articles started appearing ing cosmetics - women's face

Raisa Gorbacheva was the bravest woman here, because she dared to appear in public with her husband, Mikhail, thing of a personality herself.

The heroines of Women's Stories are mostly unknown in the West, although two names mean something outside Russia. Nanuli Shevardnadze, wife of the Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze, enlivens a duli account of being a political spouse with a description of how her husband howled in an ice-cold Jacuzzi for 10 days when trying to stop smoking.

Lyudmila Rutskaya, wife of the Afghan war hero and Russian politician Alexander Rutskoi, gives a much franker interview about how, on the eve of their 25th wedding anniversary, the man for whom she had sacrificed her own career ran off with a younger woman.

"I did not attach much significance to it at first," Mrs Rutskaya says. "I thought, 'He's grey-haired, it's just the male menopause.' But when STREET LIFE SAMOTECHNY LANE



International Women's Day in Moscow vesterday AP

cream. I said to him, 'Sasha,

how long have you been using

terview techniques while

working at American television

stations, says courage and de-

Pushkina, who learnt her in-

women's face cream?"

in the papers, I realised he had gone completely off his head. At his age, biology takes it toll. He flew to Argentina with her. He came back. I looked at him and noticed he was wear-

cuse her of banality and muckraking, by claiming to give comfort: ordinary Russians recognise their own problems in the struggles of the stars and know that they are not alone. If Russian women had hard

lives in Soviet times, when the Communists paid lip service to equality while sending them out to work in road gangs, then their lot has scarcely improved. The Russian woman still faces a low glass ceiling at work and does everything at home for the man who might, if she is lucky, wash the dishes on Women's Day. The celebrities in Pushki-

na's series probably had servants or dishwashers but their hearts were still broken by unfaithful men, who left them to bring up the children alone. Larisa Latynina, the woman who trained Soviet gymnasts including Olga Korbut, describes how her husband would go off on "business trips", returning a few days later with large sums of money.

termination are the qualities Only after he was arrested her subjects have in common. and sentenced to five years in She answers critics, who ac- prison did she learn that he was a swindler His downfall ruined her career too, for the Soviet authorities said she could not be trusted to travel abroad and denied her an exit visa.

Hardship, however, has made Russian women strong and Pushkina believes the time is right for feminism in this most sexist of countries. It should not reject men, she says, because they are victims of the system too. Rather, it should be a hearty bobskoe dvizhenie (lasses' movement) of capable and talented women, ready to help each

other and do good in society. Pushkina believes there is no reason why a woman should not one day sit in the Kremlin. The interview that gave her most satisfaction was with the democrat Galina Starovoitova, shortly before she was assassinated. "She was a klassnaya tyotya (a cool auntie), the nearest we have had yet to a woman

HELEN WOMACK

KLA deal blow to peace in Kosovo

BY EMMA DALY in Belgrade

THE KOSOVO Liberation Army appeared to dash hopes of an early end to the war in the Serb province yesterday when leaders at a secret meeting were believed to have rejected the Western-backed peace plan.

Western diplomats urged the KLA to agree to the deal and put additional pressure on the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic, to consent. Germany's Foreign Minister,

Joschka Fischer, said the rebels would be making a "historical mistake" if they rejected the plan. The European Union's foreign affairs commissioner, Hans van den Broek, was more blunt: "We need a 'yes' or it will be a big mess." The main sticking point for

the KLA was the requirement that the guerrillas hand over their weapons and accept autonomy from Belgrade rather than independence. The separatist movement is also opposed to Russia's proposed participation in an international peace-keeping force for the province, because Russia is Serbia's close ally. Suleyman Selimi, the KLA

chief of staff, warned carlier a compromise. "Halfway measures to independence are unacceptable unless they lead to full independence," he said, making a rare public appearance with other KLA leaders. They were attending a ceremony to mark the first anniversary of the killing of Adem Albanian houses.



to agree the peace deal

Jashari, a KLA founder and well-known nationalist leader He died with 50 relatives in a three-day battle with Serbian

The gathering of at least 500 armed and uniformed KLA fighters alongside 5,000 enthusiastic civilians was only a mile from a Serbian military base in the province.

At recent Kosovo peace talks in Rambouillet, France, the KLA said it could not sign a deal before consulting soldiers and local people. Yesterday, fighting. continued on Kosovo's southern border with Yugoslav forces bombarding villages near the that the rebels would not accept town of Kacanik. The army prevented international observers from reaching the villages. The ethnic Albanianrun Kosovo Information Centre said Serb forces also attacked villages in the northern Podujevo area for a second straight day, burning at least eight

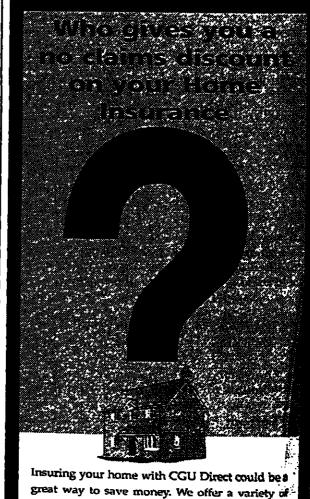
Haider poll victory shakes Austria

THE VICTORY by Austria's far- in 1991 after praising Hitler's right Freedom Party may force employment policies. Chancellor Viktor Klima's coaliropean Union expansion,

observers said yesterday. The nationalist party of Jörg Haider, who has been branded a crypto-Nazi, on Sunday scored its biggest electoral success by winning 42 per cent of Haider had been forced to re-

Mr Haider's victory means tion to soften support for Eu- the two main political parties can no longer shun him. The European Parliament election is in June and a national election in October, and protest votes could further inflate the

Freedom Party's support. His re-election as governor the vote in Carinthia. Mr needs support by two-thirds of Carinthia's parliamentary sign as governor of the province members.



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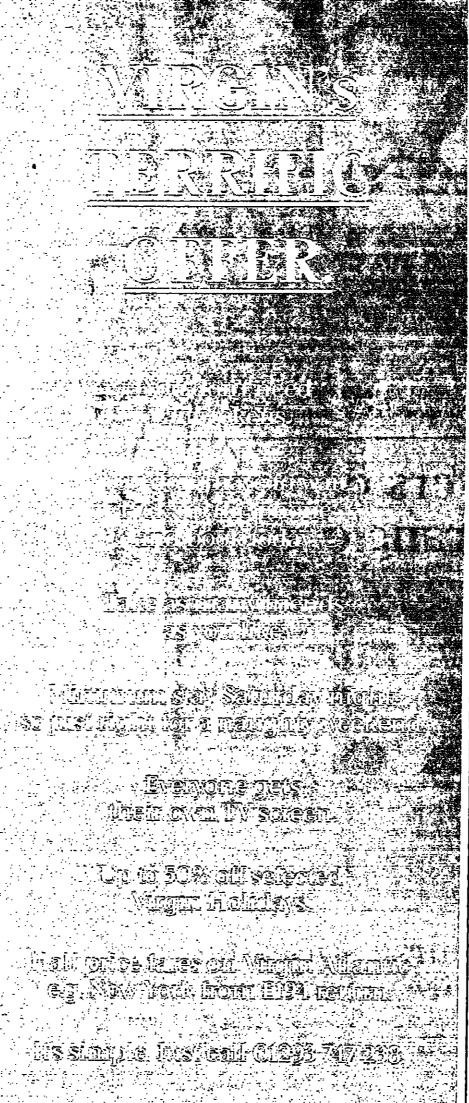
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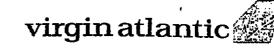
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THE INDEPENDENT

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Fortis in \$2.6bn US takeover deal

FORTIS, the Benelux-based financial services group, has in wed arch-rival Aegon into the United States, announcing a \$2.6bn takeover deal for American Bankers Insurance, a leading provider of credit insurance to financial services firms. The deal doubles Fortis' presence in that market, where Fortis is already a major player through its offshoot American Security Group. The firms will have a combined annual gross premium income of \$3.6bn. ABI is active in the UK, the Caribbean and Latin America as well as the US.

Senior Goldmans partner to quit



JON CORZINE (left), the senior partner at Goldman Sachs, is to leave the Wall Street firm once it is successfully floated in May. His departure had been seen as inevitable after Mr Corzine gave up his day-today management responsibilities in January after losing out to rival John Thornton in the power struggle that followed the

collapse of earlier plans to float the business last autumn. At a meeting of the firm's 220 partners, which approved the revival of the flotation plans yesterday, Goldmans named David Viniar chief financial officer. Barry Zubrow will take on the newlycreated role of chief administrative officer.

Axa warms on stakeholder pensions

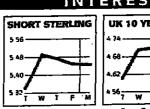
AXA SUN LIFE, one of the UK's biggest life insurers, has warned of a flaw in legislation over stakeholder pensions which could lead customers to "mis-buy" the products en masse. The insurer said the Welfare Reform and Pensions Bill forces them to accept transfers of pension savings from occupational schemes into stakeholder pensions even when they knew this would make a customer substantially worse off. Pension transfers were at the heart of the £11bn mis-selling scandal, which is still being cleared up by regulators.

STO	OCK MARK	ETS
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FTSE 250	5359.20	10.80	0.20	5970.90		
FTSE 350	2946.60	2.30	0.08	2978.70	2210.40	

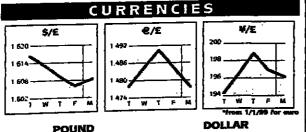
FTSE 100	6208.80	3.30	0.05	6319,60	4599.20	2.59
FTSE 250	5359.20	10.80	0.20	5970.90	4247.60	3.14
FYSE 350	2946.60	2.30	0.08	2978.70	2210.40	2.67
FTSE All Share	2848.79	2.75	0.10	2885_52	2143.53	2.71
FTSE SmallCap	2315.80	11.40	0.50	2793.80	1834,40	3.50
FTSE Fledgling	1251.50	2.50	0.20	1517.10	1046.20	4.38
FTSE ALM	839.70	6.70	0.80	1146.90	761.30	1.12
FTSE Eurotop 100	2835.74	-22,72	-0.80	3079.27	2018,15	2,11
FTSE Eurotop 300	1232.51	: -8.77	-0.71	1332.07	880.63	1.97
Dow Jones	9688.21	-45,38	-0.47	9738.79	7400,30	1.60
Nikkei	14779.05	-114.95	-0.77	17352.35	12787.90	0.96
Hang Seng	10263.99	22.87	0.22	11926,16	~ 6544,79	3.41
Dax	4788.69	-50.40	-1.04	6217.83	3833.71	1.81
S&P 500	1272.06	-2.96	-0.23	1283.91	923.32	1.25
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Belgium Bel20	3322.45	-23.72	-0.71	37 <u>13.21</u>	2696,26	2.14
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France CAC 40	4175.97	-13.59	-0.32	4404.94	2881.21	1.87
Milan MiB30	35759.00	-608.00	-1.67	39170.00	24175.00	1.14
Madrid Ibex 35	9861.40	-143.60	-1. <u>44</u>	10989.80	6869.90	1.77
Irish Overall	5418.09	29.03	0.54	5581.70	3732.57	1.52
S Korea Comp	571.84	33.65	6.25	651.95	277.37	0.26
Austrolia ASX	2929.60	27.10	0.93	2948.70	2386,70	3,14

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ľ	! @	5.00	-0.69	5.37	-0.45	5.30	93.94	5,58	0.3
İ	; Japan	0.17	-0.56	0.22	-0.47	1.71	-0. <u>18</u>	2.77	0,2
	Germany	3.09	-0.42	3.10	-0.68	4.06	-0.94	5.04	-0.5



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Gold (S) 289.85	1,40	6 31	Base Rates	5,50	7.25	

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Oil at 5pm SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

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	2.4707	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.39
ustralia (\$)	19.68	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1530
ustria (schillings)	57.84	New Zealand (\$)	2.9061
elgium (francs)		Norway (kroner)	12.32
anada (\$)	2,3706	Portugal (escudos)	285.56
yprus (pounds)	0.8261	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.8447
enmark (kroner)	10.71		2.6208
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ermany (marks)	461.92	Swe <u>den (kronor)</u>	12.87
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speciality chemicals company,

yesterday launched a £408m cash bid for Albright & Wilson, its UK rival, in a move which could trigger a takeover battle for the troubled British group,

The Albemarie offer of 130p per share was recommended by A&W's board but met with a muted response from Phillips & Drew, the UK group's largest shareholder P&D, which owns a stake of around 24 per cent,

ALBEMARLE, the US brigh- By Francesco Guerrera

refused to immediately accept waiting for other bidders to enter the fray.

However, other large shareholders, including Mercury Asset Management, were believed to have sold part of the holdings to Albernarie. The Virginia-based company, which has a market value of over \$1bn, said last night that it had

acquired over 18 per cent of A&W on the market.

Bid battle looms after £408m offer for Albright

Insiders said that A&W. the offer and is believed to be which produces chemicals for agriculture and detergents, has been approached by at least two other parties, tipped to be the French group Rhodia, part of the pharmaceutical giant Rhone-Poulenc, a UK financial buyer. US groups including FMC and Witco, two large chemical producers, could also be interested in A&W.

potential bidders were likely to wait for A&W's results tomorrow before deciding whether to

trump Albemarle's bid.

They added that, although the US group's offer was pitched at a 70 per cent premium to A&W's share price before the announcement of takeover talks, a bid war could increase the offer price to around 150p. "The upside of waiting for a

vestor said. Shares in A&W have been

in chemical markets and were trading some 50 per cent below their 1995 flotation price before They closed up 19.5p to 129.5p yesterday.

The Albemarle chief execufended the bid and said that a few days is possibly another 20p combination with A&W would

Industry experts said that on the offer price," one in- boost his company's geographical spread, giving it an important foothold in Europe. battered by a cyclical downturn He added that A&W's products were complementary to Albemarie's polymer and fine chemicals and he did not foresee the start of bid speculation. large job cuts among A&W's 1.850 UK staff.

The combined group would have sales of around £1.3bn and tive officer Floyd Gottwald de- a total staff of over 4500 people with operations in most major

FTC and

Ombudsman's ruling flouted by Skipton

THE BUILDING SOCIETIES On- BY ANDREW VERITY budsman has upped the stakes in his battle to force Skipton Building Society to pay compensation to homeowners after finding compelling evidence of

mortgage mis-selling. Brian Murphy, the ombudsman, has made a near-unprecedented use of his powers to force Skipton into a public reprimand, demanding it publish details of his findings in national

newspapers.

The use of the power - not employed since the late 1980s followed Skipton's rejection of a decision he made ordering the society to pay compensation to the people he said were unfairly treated. Mr Murphy yesterday sent a

letter to all chief executives of building societies, later passed by industry sources to The Independent, saying that Skipton had decided to reject the ruling, enduring the publicity "as an alternative to complying with my The ruling found that Skipton

had marketed a commercial mortgage to an unnamed firm of 1 and 4 per cent over base rates.

Mr Murphy ordered the so- tomers." ciety to repay the difference between 1 per cent over base rates and the actual rate, fix it at that rate in future, and pay £500 in compensation to each customer The letter to chief executives

underlines Mr Murphy's anger at the ability of mortgage lenders to by-pass the formal complaints scheme. While Skipton later settled with its customers, they

were left with no bargaining power because his ruling no longer counted.

"I had reached the decision after a very full investigation... I took the view there was compelling evidence the society had mis-sold a mortgage to the complainants and that the society had treated them unfairly." The ombudsman's action

adds fuel to an ongoing debate over whether mortgages should be regulated on a statutory footing. Under current rules, mortgage providers can reject what the ombudsman says - even when he concludes that mis-selling has taken place and orders compensation to be paid.

Instead, they can simply reiect the ombudsman's rulings and opt for the "publicity option" requiring them to take out national newspaper advertisements. Customers then have no way to ensure their complaint. is satisfied except to go to court. John Dawson, secretary and

general manager of the Skipton, said: "We are disappointed in financial advisers with a rate of that we didn't know this letter "I per cent over base rates". The was being circulated. We have actual rate later varied between resolved the matter with our cus-

> In Skipton's view, the "1 per cent above base" was not meant to indicate a rate for the lifetime of the mortgage. The society says it was not contractually bound to stick to the rate and the customers were not mis-led.

The Government has warned mortgage lenders they will be regulated by legal statute unless they can show they are capable of regulating themselves.





Office of the Building Societies Ombudsman

Ombudsman - Brian Murphy

Strictly Private & Confidential

8 March 1999

I had reached the decision in question after a very full investigation of the facts, including an oral hearing when I heard evidence from the relevant witnesses. I took the view that there was compelling evidence that the Society had mis-sold a mortgage to the complainants and I concluded that the Society had treated

John Goodfellow, Skipton CEO (top left), and Brian Murphy, ombudsman (top right). Below: The letter sent yesterday by Mr Murphy to all building society chief executives

raised standards of practice through the employment of a voluntary Mortgage Code. However, investigations by the Consumers Association and Suf-

Lenders claim they have folk Trading Standards author- azine, said: "We don't think the financial advice is patchy.

Sophie Gumpel, head of Consumers Associations mag- regulated."

ity have suggested the quality of mortgage code has made much of an impact on mortgage advice. If we don't see an improvement, money research at Which?, the we think mortgages should be

Inchcape set to return | Dawes pockets £70m from sale

£500m to investors

Business Editor

worth £550m, Philip Cushing,

the chief executive, said he

was confident that the re-

maining two unwanted busi-

nesses - its Middle East

marketing interests and office

automation - would be dis-

posed of by the end of June. An-

alysts expect the two

businesses to fetch around

The overhaul of Inchcape

INCHCAPE, the former motors, By MICHAEL HARRISON marketing and services group, is set to return around £500m to shareholders following its transformation into a business focusing solely on importing

and distributing cars. Details of the payout will be contained in a circular to be sent to shareholders in the next four to six weeks covering the £457m disposal of the group's South American bot-

tling interests. As part of its withdrawal from everything apart from the motors business, Inchcape yesterday announced a £404m exceptional write-off, plunging the group into a £298m loss for

charge is related to treatment of goodwill and asset writedowns on acquisitions and disposals. In the past year Inchcape ering expanding into other

Just under £330m of the

will leave it with just a car import and distribution arm handling six main marques -Toyota, Mazda, Jaguar, Peugeot

has disposed of businesses areas such as body repair and

and Subaru - and an Asian motors business based in Hong Mr Cushing said that Inchcape expected to unveil new deals with car makers in coming months. It is also consid-

at 2,367.83.

Despite the promised payout

to shareholders the Inchcape chairman, Lord Marshall, warned that sales were forecast to decline in most of the group's most important markets during this year. The shares fell 8p, or 5 per cent, to close at 139p.

Stripping out the one-off exceptional writedown, pre-tax profits fell by 42 per cent to £108m. The biggest single cause of the decline was the reduction in Inchcape's shareholding in the car distribution business Toyota (GB) from 75 per cent to 49 per cent, which wiped £20m off profits.

But the group was also affected by currency translation, which cost it £10m, and by a deterioration in trading conditions in Asia, South America

Operating profits in the motors division fell by 12 per

A WARRINGTON-BASED mobile phone entrepreneur who started out renting televisions vesterday pocketed £70m when

he sold his cellular phones

business to Cellnet. Martin Dawes, a reclusive businessman, started selling mobile phones on the Vodafone and Cellnet networks when they were first set up in 1985. Martin Dawes Telecommunications now has 800,000 customers and annual revenues of several hun-

dred million pounds. Cellnet is paying £130m for an 80 per cent stake in the business, the proceeds of which will be divided between Mr Dawes and his family, the management and minority shareholder France Telecom. The remaining 20 per cent is owned by

to sell its stake to Cellnet. reinvest some of the proceeds in his other business ventures,

Vodafone, which has an option Mr Dawes is expected to

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

which include an Internet service provider and an innovative messaging service called Breathe.

Peter Erskine, managing director of Cellnet, said MDT was attractive because it had a lot of business users - an area in which Cellnet is keen to expand. "They are a major channel and they have a very large corporate sales force," he said. MDT also runs 15 shops and three call centres.

The business is expected to operate as a separate division within Cellnet and will continue to support its existing customers, 80 per cent of whom are Vodafone subscribers. However, Mr Erskine said an MDT priorities would be to sign up new customers for Cellnet. David Goldie, MDT manag-

ing director will continue to run the business as part of Cellnet. | ment further.

Intel settle antitrust action By Mary Dejevsky

in Washington

THE US Federal Trade Commission reached a preliminary settlement yesterday with the computer giant, Intel, fending off a test of US antitrust legislation that had been set to rival the case against Microsoft.

The settlement came a day before the FTC was to start the formal hearing of complaints that Intel had used its near-monopoly position in the computer chip market to the detriment of would-be competitors.

No details were given, but both sides expressed satisfaction with the terms. The FTC filed a motion to withdraw the antitrust case and a formal decision, endorsed by the fourmember commission, is expected by week-end.

The FTC charged that Intel had "coerced major established customers into granting access to their technology on terms favourable to Intel" and withheld details of its own technology that would have enabled them to compete. The action was a response to complaints by three companies - Intergraph, Compaq and Digital Equipment Corp - that Intel was soliciting confidential information with the aim of using it to improve its own products.

The principle of the case was similar to Microsoft's. which resumes in the Washington court next month, but there were key differences. The Microsoft case was brought by the Justice Department and is going through the judicial system, while that against Intel was brought by FTC and was to be heard by an FTC judge, leaving open the possibility of an appeal in open court.

The response of the two companies – which between them command more than 80 per cent of the world's computer market - was also different. Intel acknowledged the practices complained of, but defended them as part and parcel of free competition. Microsoft executives have denied the restrictive practices of which it has been accused, but found themselves frequently wrong-footed in the courtroom by their own e-mails and internal office communications

The settlement, assuming it is approved by the FTC, was deemed to suit both parties. The FTC, according to lawyers in Washington, had no certainty of winning. Intel could see the legal complications and ill-feeling generated by the Microsoft case and feared a protracted case that could affect its already declining market share.

Intel said yesterday: "Intel is pleased with the agreement and we believe it provides adequate value for our intellectual property," but declined to com-

AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

TODAY'S BUDGET overshadowed blue chips, with Footsie after a lacklustre session ending just 3.3 points up at 6,208.8. It had moved between a 29 gain and a 30.9 fall. Supporting shares were more resilient; the mid cap index rose 10.8 points and the small cap 11.4p.

Albright & Wilson, the chemical group, was most actively traded as a US bid emerged at 130p a share and CSFB picked up stock on behalf of the bidder. The price gained 19.5p to 129.5p.

Derek Pain, page 19

NEW YORK

US STOCKS were mixed after Friday's record-breaking run. Chip maker Intel rose after settling an antitrust suit, while other stocks were hit by profittaking. By early afternoon the Dow Jones average was down 37.88 points at 9,698.20, while the Nasdaq Composite was up 30.72

International blue chips such as Procter & Gamble and Johnson & Johnson led the Dow fall, but analysts predicted the Dow could soon top 10,000.

● TOKYO

THE BENCHMARK Nikkei index breached the 15,000 level for the first time since December, but profit-taking pushed the index lower in late trade. The Nikkei eventually closed

down 114.95 points at 14,779.05, with the unwinding of corporate cross-shareholdings ahead of the fiscal year end helping to depress share prices. Shares in the financial sector rose after 15 large banks announced plans to restructure, a prerequisite for receiving state assistance.

SAO PAULO

BRAZIL STOCKS were trading higher and the currency steadied as the markets prepared for confirmation of a new IMF deal. The benchmark Bovespa index was trading up 62.03 points at 9,527.12, while the real held its ground above the 2 to the dollar

·The government and IMF were set last night to announce details of a new agreement, which consists of revised terms for the \$41.5bn financial bailout

QUITO

ECUADOR debt plunged in value after the government unexpectedly declared a bank holiday to relieve oressure on its financial system. None of the country's 39 banks which saw heavy withdrawals on Friday - were open to the public.

The currency, the sucre, hit a new low last week amid renewed fears of debt default. Rumours also persist that the government is planning to confiscate all foreign currency in bank accounts, but this

Malaysia (ringgics)

INSPIRATIONS NOVELIST GEOFF NICHOLSON

The Place I find any stretch of bleak desert wasteland fairly wonderful, in some ways the more anonymous the better but I'll go for Zzyzs, a former health resort, now a ghost town in the Mojave desert, a few miles outside Barstow, California. It has palm trees, wind-blown sand, Curious abandoned buildings and empty swimming pools. It could be sinister, yet I find it totally comforting and

reassuring.

The music Willie the Pimp by Frank Zappa with Captain Beefheart on vocals. This has everything: great lyrics, a fabulous blues vocal and a great skronking extended electric guitar solo. Harold Bloom says that all great art is strange, and of course that doesn't mean that all strange art is great, but there's something about the early stuff of Zappa and Beefheart that still seems as weird and radical as it ever did.

The Film After Hours by Martin Scorsese. This seems to me an infinitely more honest film than all of Scorsese's homoerotic hymns to violent men who swear a lot Griffin Dunne wanders around nocturnal New York, pursuing a woman, being pursued by vigilantes, having the sort of edgy, scary, sexy adventures we all dream of having in New York, but are actually rather



comedy and so our hero survives but you realise how easily he might not.

The Play Hamlet was the first bit of Shakespeare I ever really understood and enjoyed. It's a great play to discover when you're an adolescent - all that teenage angst, all that beautiful suffering. Every 17-year-old lad who's having trouble with the parents and school and girlfriends knows exactly how Hamlet feels. More than any other play I can think of, I carry my own version of Hamlet in my head and no production is ever as good as that.

The work of art Le Violin d'Ingres. This is Max Ernst's photograph of Kiki de Montparnasse, who has two f-holes collaged into her naked back. There are years when this seems an unacceptably sexist piece of work, other years when it seems sexy, respectful and playful. We "borrowed" the idea for the cover of my novel Flesh Guitar. but we made the violin an electric guitar and instead of f-holes we had pick ups and a tremelo arm.

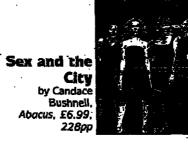
Geoff Nicholson's new novel, Temale Ruins, is published by Indigo (£9.99)

PAPERBACKS

BY EMMA HAGESTADT AND CHRISTOPHER HIRST



269pp THE FAMILIAR story of Scott's catastrophic polar slog is given additional psychological depth in Preston's highly accomplished account. Scott emerges as an introspective, humane man, prone to the "black dog" of depression and a belief in his own ill-luck. He expended much effort in drumming up sponsorship from Colman's Mustard and Oxo, though he failed to acquire the dog-handling skills which resulted in Amundsen's triumph. Another 350 yards a day and his party would have survived - but we would have lost a classic tale of British pluck.



THE MOST encouraging thing about Candace Bushnell's book (and the TV series based on it) is that life for 35-yearold singles is one up on being 25 and single. Bushnell's female thirtysomethings are less likely to sleep with the wrong man, wear the wrong clothes or share with the wrong room-mates. Based on her column for the New York Observer, Bushnell's canape-sized bites of Manhattan life stylishly capture a clubbing and dating scene that you might have thought had died out with Nell's and Jay McInerney.

The Last to

by Candida Crewe,

Arrow, £5.99,

Know

264pp

ONE WET weekday evening, Oxford GP

some ice cream. He doesn't come home. His wife Sylvie is left with two pieces of

slim-line plot, but one that Candida Crewe

keeps happily bubbling away. An author

with a sharp and quirky eye for domestic

detail, Crewe builds up a seductively cosy

picture of the Black's life in Cowley, and an

intimate history of their 20-year marriage.

Not a story of town and gown, this novel

embarks on a series of unlikely journeys

travels well beyond Oxford as Kim

around Britain.

curling haddock, and an empty bed. A

Kim Black pops out to the corner shop for

THE LAST TO KNO

WEEKLY SALES

7,085

4,279

2,971

1,625

1.574

1,319

1,210

1,183

3,400

2,379

2,125

2,098

1,627

1,559

1,447

1,432

885





LIKE PIGGING out on Kettle Fries, there is a guilty pleasure in consuming Burchill's prose. Irresistibly moreish but mad, this is both a love letter to the most beautiful girl in the class and a no-holds-barred rubbishing of the monarchy ("that monumental blockage in the S-bend of public life"). Diana's excesses, such as the 23.000 a week (excluding clothes) she spent keeping up appearances, are excused, while Charles is lambasted: "Against him, a sloth would have looked wonderful". The flaw in Burchill's thesis is that without the royals, there would have been no Diana.

Book

IN 25 short chapters, actress, comedian

Goldberg sounds off on Race, Farting (her

favourite topic) and presidential zippers.

and all-round Clinton groupie, Whoopi

Like Roseanne, she wears her liberal credentials writ large, as she rails full

volume against exploitative chat show

multinationals. Her pet peeves include

men who return from restaurant rest

rooms with urine speckled chinos and

we all let it rip; and yes, she is named

Whoopi after the Cushion.

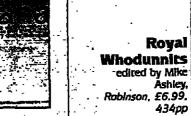
being referred to as an Afro-American.

Yes, the world would be a happier place if

hosts and the sinister activities of

by Whoopl

Goldberg Warner, £5.99,



Robinson, £6.99. 434pp



THESE TWO dozen tales about dark doings within palace walls are painfully bathetic. In a "prequel" to the Scottish play, we learn how Macbeth "allowed a smile to spread across his features" after committing a grisly murder. Such an improvement on Shakespeare's effort. At the court of Richard II, amateur sleuth Geoffrey Chaucer vows, "I will do my best to bring the truth of this affair to light." But this is trumped by Queen Victoria's attempt to save an eminent subject: "You do not look like a murderer of populations, Mr Brunel." Right royal twaddle.

> Dinosaur Days by Jill Laurimore. Penguin, £5.99.



FLISS AND Ivor Harley-Wright are on their uppers, their Suffolk pile sinking into its moat. Their one hope of rescue lies in the sale of their only asset - a collection of Commemorative Drinking Vessels. All they have to do is treat an American lawyer, New York control-freak Tom Klaus, to a weekend in the country. An accomplished mid-Atlantic farce, there are some awkward moments as the Harley-Wrights roll out the red carpet, and several balls of labrador hair, inhonour of their very influential guest. A first novel by a writer who is supremely comfortable in other folks' wellies.

BESTSELLERS

The Ogre's

Laboratory

by Louis Buss.

393pp

THIS DARK spinechiller features the

and historian who is posted to a Surrey

backwater. Prone to hypnagogic visions.

Snow finds that the local stately home is

called Everard Trevellyn, whose grisly

Evidence of paedophile activities in the

locality suggests that the ogre's baneful

Buss has produced a stylish, disturbing

work, its terrors softened by his hero's

awkward passion for a local journalist.

influence is till active across the centuries.

Despite the obvious debt to Peter Ackroyd,

imbued by the spirit of a medieval Moloch

doings he uncovers in the British Museum.

appropriately named Father Snow, a priest

Vintage, £6.99,

Published in the same week. John Grisham's The Testoment and Come Together by Josie Lloyd and Emlyn Rees have battled it out for the top

Grisham had maintained a slight lead until this week when Lloyd and Rees bave finally toppled him - but only

Rick Stein (BBC)

Delia Smith (BBC)

Alan Titchmarsh (BBC)

Ted Hughes (Faber)

Bill Bryson (Doubleday

running: Men are From Mars.. remains at number two for the fifth week, while Lillian Too's Little Book of

£18.99

£16.99

£9.99

£9.99

£14,99

£16.99

Compiled by Bookwatch from data supplied on sales over seven days ending 28 February 1999

SPOKEN WORD

BY CHRISTINA HARDYMENT



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A Patchwork Planet read by David Morse Random House, 5hrs, £12.99

THERE'S AN old country-and-western song called "Gentle on My Mind" which sums up the subtle charm of Anne Tyler's novels: you feel the wiser for reading, or in this case, hearing them. David Morse's medium for Barnaby Gaitlin, supposedly the black sheep of a philanthropic family, in fact the only one of them to have a true understanding of kindness. Miraculously (and this is a book about angels), he and an endearing cast of needy but sassy wrinklies show us how to cope with the inevitable imperfections of the world.

Cold Comfort Farm read by Eileen Atkins Penguin, 3hrs, £8.99

ALTHOUGH FEW people now read Mary Webb, the author whom Stella Gibbons was parodying in Cold Comfort Farm, the book remains an evergreen classic. It seems a shame to miss a word of it, but this is an guaranteed to dissipate the most recalcitrant gloom. Eileen Atkins thoroughly enjoys herself as she reads Flora Poste's lines with brisk, Roedeanaccented competence, smoulders as Seth. preaches hellfire as Amos and querulously complains of "something nasty in the woodshed" as matriarch Ada Doom.

just. Station X stays at the top of the Feng Shui has hovered at number slot for the past three weeks. non-fiction chart for the third week © Bookwatch Ltd 1999 ORIGINAL FICTION TITLE AUTHOR/PUBLISHER Josie Lloyd & Emlyn Rees (Arrow) Come Together 2 (1) The Testament John Grisham (Century) 3 (3) Single & Single John le Carre (Hodder) £16.99 Sharpe's Fortress 4 (-) Bernard Cornwell (HarperCollins) £16,99 The Thursday Frie Catherine Cookson (Bantam Press) 6 (-) Caroline's Sister £5.99 Sheila O'Flanagan (Poolbeg) Lucy Fitzgerald (Black Swan) 7 (8) Liar Birds £5.99 8 (7) lt Means Mischief Kate Thompson (Bantam) £5.99 9 (5) Messiah Boris Starling (HarperCollins) £5.99 10 (6) Southern Cross Patricia D Cornwell (Little, Brown) £16.99 **ORIGINAL NON-FICTION** Station X: the codebreakers Michael Smith (Channel 4) £14.99 2 (2) Men Are From Mars.. John Gray (Thorsons) Little Book of Feng Shui £1.99 Lillian Too (Element) 3 (4) The Year 1000 Robert Lacey & Danny Danziger (Little, Brown) £12.99 4 (3)

TASCO BINOCULARS Save £10 on the R.R.P. of £29.99 The suggested selling price for these Binoculars is £29.99 but we are able to offer them for just £19.99! They are compact, lights eight binoculars from the world's leading name in optical products. They iave 8 x 21 mm magnitiation with sophisticated not prism design. The olding body enables the moculars to be carried

Seafood Odyssey

Birthday Letters

Delia's How to Cook

Ground Force Workbook

Notes from a Big Country

Official ITV Formula One Guide Bruce Jones (Carlton)

THE INDEPENDENT

5 (7)

7 (6)

9 (5)

10 (8)

nveniently and castly in the jacket pocket. The rubbet protective covering is showerproof and marks against the occasional accidental knock. Supplied complete with ough case and 10 year manufacturers goritantee.

All this at a knockout price of just £19.99 including postage and packing

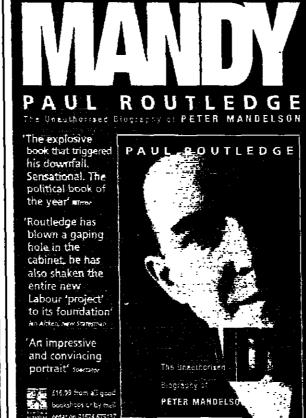
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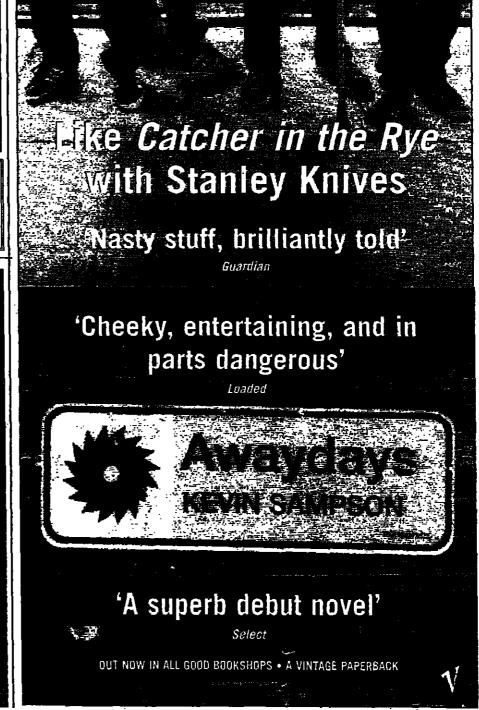
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Next Week: Michael Bywater profiles the human face; Christina Patterson interviews **Edwidge Danticat; and Miranda Seymour** seeks the truth about Pontius Pilate





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ANOTHER DAY, another round of supermarket price cuts. This time it is Asda wading in with 1,000 discounted items in a move that will cost it an extra £50m. Pampers nappies anyone? Come on down; the paice is being cut from £12.75 to £2.99. Chicken Tonight curry sauce? Asda certainly knows its market - down from £1.35 to a lipment leter the tingling 99p. Marvellous.

Coming just days after Tesco attempted to grab the headlines with a similar round of cuts, and a couple of weeks after the price of bread sank to 7p a loaf in the socalled "bread wars", it is worth asking the question: are these the first shots in a full scale price war? Or are they just bits of tactical, PR posturing that just happen to have been launched a couple of weeks ahead of the expected publication of the OFT report on supermarket profiteering?

Life has undoubtedly got a little tougher for our supermarket behemoths. But a look at the official retail figures shows that compared other sectors, food prices have held up very nicely for the grocers. While footwear and clothing prices were under constant deflationary pressure last year, food prices rose



OUTLOOK

by 2 per cent. The rise added around 0.5 percentage points to the overall inflation increase of around

Certain prices have shown remarkable rises. The price of potatoes in January was 29 per cent higher than the same month a year ago, for example, though supply issues are a major factor here. Tea, where supply is less obviously a problem, went up by 9 per cent, fish by 12 per cent and fresh vegetables by 7 per cent.

Retail prices of pork (one of the N1COl1/EMI items reduced in price by Asda yesterday) fell by 11 per cent. But this was in a year when the wholesale

of oversupply in Europe and the chairman of EML The share price City really want a big noise from the alism at the top. Less clear is evaporation of demand from Rus- of his present employer, United Bis- entertainment industry, EMI asks. whether Mr Nicoli is really that persia and the Far East. Was all that price fall passed on to customers before yesterday's little manoeuvre? You bet it wasn't.

When Asda reported its half year results in December its margins had fallen by just 0.2 per cent year on year. Not much pain there. One thousand sounds a big number, but more than a third of the cuts are confined to poor selling and narrow product ranges like fruit flavoured teas and sun lotion.

There's no getting away from it. As the OFT puts the finishing touches to its report, it is becoming very clear that the supermarket sector is one place where the major players can definitely afford to charge lower prices - and permanently. Government proposals to introduce regular shopping basket price comparisons, plus a kick from the OFT, will force them to do just that.

ERIC NICOLI has been given an extraordinarily rude welcome by the price of pork plummeted because City for his new job as executive

cuits, rose on the news, while that of EMI fell. Analysts were virtually queuing up to say what an unexciting appointment it was, and there was a general booing and hissing in the aisles.

Smokescreen won't save supermarkets

هكذا من الاصل

In the circumstances, it is just as well that Mr Nicoli is a thick skinned bruiser with resilience to criticism boned over many years of public censure. His reign as chief executive of United Biscuits has been marked by repeated calls for his head as the shares first fell out of the FTSE 100 and then continued their downward slide relative to the index. He survived them all.

And to be fair on Mr Nicoli, the persistent underperformance of the share price under his watch cannot really be described as entirely his fault. He inherited some big problems from his predecessor, Sir Hector Laing, and he's been up against some of the fiercest competition in the world. Even so, Mr Nicoli's experience as a biscuit seller doesn't obviously best suit him to the hard living, social whirl of the music industry.

Which is, EMI claims, precisely why he was selected. Does the a healthy injection of profession-

If so it could certainly have had one, son. There is a smell of compromise but he would have come at a big price. Take what Mike O'Neill demanded for quitting the US for Barclays Bank, quadruple it, add in an American style package of executive perks, and you might be talk-

ing about the right ballpark. Furthermore, any such big hitter would have come with his own mergers and acquisitions agenda. EMI would rapidly have been led into other areas of the international entertainments industry, which may or may not be the thing to do. Nor, EMI insists, does it need another music industry expert for big signings, new acts and everything

else that comes with the business. To have appointed such a person would merely have been to have out noses out of joint with the existing couple of head ponchos, Ken Berry and Martin Bandier. They would have marched out in a big huff, and with an ever bigger payoff.

All this seems reasonable enough, as does the contention that the music industry, notorious for late nights, late starts, lax cost control and poor management, needs and second best about this appointment. Mr Nicoli could prove the sceptics wrong, but he's also there because he's there - because he's a non executive director of EMI and for whatever reasons, be

Society madness

IN A RECENT speech Patricia Hewitt. Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said the Government would for the time being continue to allow mortgage lenders to escape statutory regulation and instead be governed by a voluntary code of conduct. She added, however that because a mortgage is the biggest financial transaction of a lifetime for most people, there were serious concerns and that the position would be reviewed later this year. In other words, building

societies are drinking at last

chance saloon. The Skipton Building Society's Ombudsman's findings, and refuse self-righteous, little Skipton.

to pay his prescribed compensation, pretty much guarantees that this review is going to be a hostile one. Given the sums involved, which are paltry, this was a particularly stupid and naive thing for the Skipton to have done, even though it plainly believes right is on

The upshot is that the Skipton has spoilt it for everyone. Building societies will find themselves annexed to the fast growing empire of the Financial Services Authority along with everyone else. This is unlikely to be a good thing in the long run from anyone's point of

There are a lot of mis-sold mortgages; what's more, the complexity and variety of products now on offer means the degree of mis selling is on the increase. On the other hand, the red tape and costs of complying with statutory regulation will almost certainly damage what is at present a vibrantly competitive market place working to the general benefit of all.

Some people will gain, and there will be greater protection from decision to stick two fingers up at sharp practice. But the cost of a the code of conduct, reject the mortgage will generally rise. Silly,

Consortium (BRC) sales survey

found the value of total sales was

4.1 per cent higher in February

'than in the same period last year.

This was lower than Janu-

ary's 5 per cent growth but

ahead of the subdued figures at

the end of last year. According

to the BRC, consumers are will-

ing to spend, but only if the price

is right. Stores that continued

their sales into February fared

better than those that ended

Meanwhile, investment man-

agers' confidence surged by a

record amount last month, ac-

cording to a Merrill Lynch/

Gallup survey. Interest rate cuts

and relative calm in the financial

markets has helped restore faith

managers expect a stronger

economy next year, compared to

a third in January. As a result,

money managers prefer stocks

over bonds and have turned

buyers of property for the first

Merrill Lynch also argued

time since spring last year.

Just over two-thirds of fund

sales in January.

NatPower moves into | Salomon domestic gas market

NATIONAL POWER yesterday By Michael Harrison moved into the domestic gas market with a surprise £20m takeover of Calortex, the countr second-biggest independent gas retailer, and hinted it was looking for further acquisi-

Together with the Midlands Electricity supply business, bought for £180m last year, this deal will give National Power 2.7 million domestic customers and allow it to move more aggres-

market with "dual fuel" offers. Calortex, a joint venture between Calor and Texaco set up in 1995, now has 500,000 domestic gas customers, giving it 3 per cent of the total market. Centrica, trading as British Gas, commercial energy supply busistill has an 80 per cent share. ness trades as Energy Direct.

Braue Hatch Leisure (F) British Vita (F)

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Turnover (£)

87.72m (78.91m) 529.6m (530.6c)

529 Sm (530.8a)
19.15m (13.3am)
19.15m (13.3am)
14550x (1.4540x)
14550x (1.4540x)
103.08m (58.98m)
103.08m (58.98m)
103.08m (58.98m)
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172.5m (10.52x)
138.70x (1.377m)
138.70x (1.377m)
1572.41m (56.25m)
277.41m (66.25m)
161.55m (182.28m)
19.57m (14.11m)
2.65m (2.270m)
19.57m (6.411m)
4.58m (1.55m)

Business Editor

In terms of independent gas retailers, Calortex is second only to Eastern group with a 13 per cent share. Last year Calortex had sales of £77m and net assets of £9m.

Keith Henry, chief executive of National Power, said its aim was to grow the supply business, eventually serving four to five million customers. Other gas sively into the home energy and electricity supply businesses are being looked at.

A spokesman said there were no plans at present to replace Midlands Electricity or Calortex brands with National Power The company's industrial and

COMPANY RESULTS

Pre-tax (£)

4.58m (3.55m) 71.3m (66.2m)

167.0m (148.9m)
-297.6m (89.6m)
2.075m (0.954m)
3 trm (4.91m)
1.02w (1.4m)
222.8m (198.6m)
1.58m (1.27m)
10.56m (9.11m)
45.5m (37.0m)
45.5m (37.0m)
2.93m (2.76m)
1.22 m (17.72m)
2.93m (2.76m)
1.22 m (17.72m)
1.25 m (2.76m)

No price details of the Calortex deal were disclosed, but analysts estimated National Power is paying just under £40 per customer. This compares with the £100 to £160 per customer it paid when it took over Midlands' re-

tail arm. Meanwhile National Power said it had begun sending out the information memorandum on the sale of its 4,000-megawatt Drax coal-fired station. The sale is expected to raise about £2bn.

PowerGen is close to selling off two of its coal-fired stations, Fiddler's Ferry and Ferrybridge, for up to £1.5bn. Observers believe nuclear generator British Energy and Mission Energy of the US, which already owns UK hydro-electric stations, will each buy a station. I in the firm of the latter's daugh-

Pay day

20.05.98 07.05.99 12.05.99 tha 17.05.99 09.06.39 20.04.99 25.04.99 01.06.99 30.04.99 15.04.99 26.04.99

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4 09 (-4) 925p (8.75p) 7.35p (8.8p) 25.0p (20.0p) 4.0p (-2.0p) 4.0p (-1.15p) 12.81p (-1.45p) 12.81p (-1.45p) 1.5p (-1.45p) 10.4p (4.0p) 10.4p (10.0p) 10.4p (10.0p) 10.4p (10.2p) 15.5p (1.25p) 15.5p (1.45p)

X-div

in \$30m

By Andrew Garfield

JAMIE DIMON, who quit Wall Street investment firm Salomon Smith Barney last November, has agreed a severance package of \$30m with his former firm. Mr Dimon was a well-known Wall Street figure and his

departure following huge emerging market losses came as a huge shock to the industry. Mr Dimon was widely seen as heir apparent to Sandy Weill, who steered the firm to a merger with Citicorp to create the

world's largest financial services group last year. However, Wall Street insiders say that the rot set in some 18 months before when he and Mr Weill fell out over the status with-

ter Jessica Bibliowicz Deryck Maughan, the former UK Treasury official who was joint co-chief executive of Salomon's with Mr Dimon, was sidelined at the same time in favour of a new management team headed by Victor Menezes and Michael Carpenter.

Mr Dimon's package includes \$5.6m in cash, made up of a 1998 bonus of \$4.3m and two years of his \$650,000 base He will also keep \$6.3m of

shares that he already owns and options worth \$20m which he built up over the 16 years he worked for Travellers, Salomon Smith Barney's parent company before last year's Citicorp



Hammerson to spend £400m

HAMMERSON, the property developer, yesterday underlined its confidence in the market with plans to spend up to £400m on shopping centres and offices, writes Francesco Guerrera.

Chief executive Ron Spinney (above left, with finance director Simon Melliss) said that this year the company would invest around £200m to develop its existing portfolio, which includes 3.5 per cent to £127.9m.

the Oracle retail centre in Reading and the West Quay mall in Southampton. A further £200m could be spent to boost

Mr Spinney's comments came as Hammerson reported a 9.9 per cent increase in underlying pre-tax profits to £68.8m on rental income up by

its portfolio of retail and office

properties in the UK and

gathers pace THE SCENE was set for an up- BY DIANE COYLE AND LEA PATERSON

UK recovery

beat Budget by new figures yesterday suggesting the economic slowdown is easing. Manufacturing output rose for the first time in six months in January, while a survey showed sales on the high street have picked up since the New Year.

A monthly index of GDP, the broadest measure of the economy, published by the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, also pointed to the likelihood the economy will avoid recession. It edged up in February, leading the institute to conclude there is no sign of a decline in GDP.

The rise in manufacturing output in January was just 0.1 per cent, taking it to a level 0.9 per cent lower than a year earlier Mild weather meant energy output plunged, so total in Britain's economic prospects. industrial production was down 0.5 per cent during the month.

Most sectors remained weak. with only engineering output up (by 0.4 per cent) in the latest three months. Even so, the figures were better than many economists had feared.

Separate official figures backed the view that industry could be at a turning point. The core prices charged by manufacturers at the factory gate were flat in February for a second month running after falling since the summer. Their year-onyear rate of decline slowed to minus 0.5 per cent.

that bickering between Europe's politicians and the European

Central Bank may have undermined fund manager confidence in EMU. Around 54 per cent believe it is in the lik's interest to join EMU, down from 61 per cent in November 1997. The dollar has replaced the euro as fund The monthly British Retail managers' favourite currency.

BUSINESS Rochester Aberdeen Rugby/Northampton Ashford Glasgow Erskine **Belfast** Gloucester Southampton Basinostoke Bolton* Southampton/Eastleigh Birminoham Huli Havant loswich Stoke-on-Trent Cardiff Great hotel deals Carlisle Liverpool¹ Lancaster Swindon Leeds/Bradford Taunton Chester Leeds/Brighouse Teesside for business Wakefield Croydon Leicester Derby/Burtor Lincoln Warrington/Runcorn Maidstone/Sevenoaks Washington Edinburah travellers Plymouth Dover Grimsby Leeds/Selby Peterborough Basildon Dublin (IR) Manchester Airport Portsmouth Glasgow Airport Newcastle-upon-Tyne Bexley Sheffield **Birmingham Airport** Glasgow City Nottingham City Haydock Norwich Brentwood Stevenage **High Wycombe** Preston Walsall' **Cardiff City** Hull Marina Reading York Manchester Swansea Colchester London Bloomsbury Cambridge Aylesbury South Mimms Hampstead Famborough £99 Kensington Guildford Hemel Hempstead Milton Keynes Regent's Park Nottingham/Derby Heathrow Special seasonal rates across 85 hotels Posthouse Branded restaurants for all tastes

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Prices shown are per room based on one night stay, single or rrices snown are per sount masses of tax and service. Offer available accupancy, fully inclusive of tax and service. Offer available at assed hotels to 30th April 1999. Stays from Monday to Thursday inclusive. All resentations subject to ovalability with a limited number of norms available at these promotional rates Bookings to be made via Central

yvalions prior to arrival at hotel. These offers cannot be

used in conjunction with any other offer or special pron Postbouse hotels reserves the right to suspend this special offer at any time wehout prior notice. Any continued Or eed bookings cancelled after 2pm on day of arrival will be liable to a non-errival charge of the first night's terms.

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MAIN MOVERS 1385 -115 78 56 1227 16 530 03 5.1 7.7 1936 271 1145 30 40 93 1714 41 3425 08 27 178 279 12 1375 00 82 92 4793 193 985 08 86 67 7398 170 10.7 4.3152.4 737.5 4.00 - 11.0 110.6 77 0.0 145 752.5 10.2 0.01930 - 557 76.5 4.0 493.2 81.5 4.5 13.0 16 3362 19,86 19.58 17.70 34.88 105.60 3,50 8.55 机加 -16.50 343.50 210.00 -10.00 MARKET LEADERS TOP 20 VOLUMES at 5pm Promier OS Pie 12.65m Stages Pie Anta Group Pie 11.70m Gen Eine Pie B.Stm plants & Speecer 8.15m | 200 | 100 | 600 March | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307.0 | 307. FTSE 100 INDEX HOUR BY HOUR #1 Contries 116.3 -1.8 58.4 TP18 -287 BG 152.0 -3.0 2.9 14.4 7274 99 Int Energy Gep 162.0 CC 3: 15° 425. | 155 | 160 | 161 | 162 | 163 | 162 | 163 | 162 | 163 | 162 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 | 163 ### 468 | 0.7 | 15 | 4473 | 4473 | 4470 | 174 | 4470 | 174 | 4774 | 175 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 | 475 reasons to ## 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Engineers start to emerge from the doghouse

IT LOOKS as though engineers are at last emerging from the stock-market doghouse. The astonishing descent of the aggressive US venture capitalist Kohlberg Kravis Roberts on the staid old TI Group could underline the overlooked value lurking among the metal

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As if on cue IMI, once part of Imperial Chemical Industries, offered a glimmer of hope that the hard-hit sector is beginning to see the end of its long struggle against the rampant pound and recessionary influences. IMI jumped 17p to 252p in often brisk trading with Merril Lynch talking about a 350p target. TL after Friday's 8 per cent surge, rose a further 7p to 452p.

Riding at 532p last year IMI has been one of the most significant victims of the engineering crash. But profits at the top end of the range, £152.2m against £146.5m, and indications of a trading pick up encouraged investors.

It was enough to lift Senior Engineering 5p to 137p; Weir 5p to 257p, and the new giant of the engineering industry,

CAFE INNS, the pub chain known to be in bid talks, frothed 19p higher to 220.5p as speculation mounted a deal could be

Burtonwood, which has had close links with the pub group for a long time and is now concentrating on its retail operations after giving up control of its brewery, is one rumoured suitor.

Another is Century Inns, which is thought to be keen to extend its pubs estate.

BTR Siebe, 3p to 278p. TI has surrendered a 4.9 per cent stake to KKR for £94.4m. The deal is expected to lead to a TI acquisition spree.

With the looming Budget inhibiting trading the market experienced a low-key session with Footsie managing a 3.3 points gain to 6,208.8. It failed to gain any inspiration from New York, which looked decidedly uncertain during Lon-

The market's undercard, not so much influenced by Wall Street, was less subdued with the mid-cap making fur-ther beadway up 10.8 at 5,359.2. and the small cap 11.4 higher at 2.315.8.

The day's turnover was inflamed by a chemical reaction in Albright & Wilson. Volume, according to Seaq, was almost 68 million shares as Albemarle, a US group, launched a 130p a share bid (£408m) for the hard -pressed hemical group. The shares jumped 19.5p to 129.5p.

But there is a sneaking suspicion the game is not yet over and Albright will collect further offers. Indeed Phillips & Drew. the fund manager with 24 per cent, seemed decidedly unimpressed by the terms.

As if anticipating shareholder reluctance CSFB moved into the market, picking up Albright shares for the US



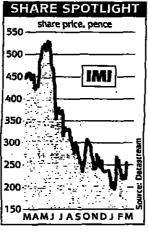
DEREK

group. It managed to acquire 18.6 per cent. Other chemical groups

scored from the action. Yule Catto rose 18p to 288p and Hickson International 3.5p to 40p. Brent International, where bid talks have dragged on, rose 1.5p to 111.5p. The latest story is that the group intends to sell one of its divisions for £25m, before a deal with the hovering predator is complet-

Jockeying for position ahead of the Footsie changes provided the blue-chip highlight. Tomkins, the old style conglomerate with the buns to guns tag, seems to be destined for relegation and fell 10p to 210p. Safeway, the supermarket chain, another endangered Footsie species, gave up 5p to 248.50 but Williams, the security group, hardened a shade

South African Breweries arrived to confuse the promotion process. It seemed to be determined to qualify for mem-



bership of the exclusive club. achieving a 485p close, up 20p from Friday "when issued" price, in its first day of full dealings. The miner Billiton is one South African group that is already a Footsie member and other Springbok companies are also seeking a London list-ing. This could lead to four South African companies claiming membership of the

blue-chip index. Corporate Services endangered its membership of the mid-cap index, with a 53p slide to 113p after a profits warning. Sage, the computer group involved in investment

rounds, put on 42.5p to 2,012.5p. Reuters, with investment briefings due to start today, improved 18.5p to 902p. National Power, as bid speculation returned, sparked a 10p gain to 494.5p. The under -performing group is seen as ripe for a US

EMI was not in tune to welcome its new, chairman Eric Nicholi; the shares fell 8.75p to 440p. United Biscuits,

which has failed to crunch the numbers under Mr Nicoli's stewardship, firmed 2p to 183p.

Scottish Media had an eventful session, ending 34p off at 848p. Upbeat comments failed to have much impact with the market speculating about possible bid action following the Mirror's decision to sell its 18.6 per cent stake.

Widney, the engineer, fell 3p to 37.5p after a special shareholders' meeting was called by shareholders representing nearly 13 per cent of the capital. The "rebels" include SEP Industrial Holdings, unchanged at 13p; they want the board removed.

Expansion at leisure group Queensborough seems to have hit a brick wall. Its plan to buy 46 outlets from City Centre Restaurants to allow it to roll out a new casual catering concept has been hit by its failure to raise cash for the deal. The shares fell 1.5p to 17p with

CCR off 2.5p to 56p.
Internet links lifted Methvens, the bookshop chain, 10p to 41.5p. Newcomer Sports Internet had the right essociations to close at 88.5p,

TADPOLE TECHNOLOGY slipped 1.75p to 14.5p in brisk trading. The long time high-tech

casualty - the shares were once 307.5p - has enjoyed some support lately because of rumours about a mobile computer it has developed which detects leaks and should make life easier for water companies.

Presentations on the fledgling product, called Java, are said to have been well received and Tadpole may soon be able to produce further details.

an astonishing 244 per cent improvement on the placing price. The company, run by former Leeds Sporting chief executive Chris Akers, is looking for sports operations with web links. Trafficmaster motored 202.5p to 1,030p following a traffic information link with German giant Mannesmann. Staffware, a software group, rose 50p to 242.5p after an upbeat trading performance.

The recovering crude oil price produced a little firmness on the oil pitch. Enterprise Oil, partly on hopes of progress in its talks with Lasmo, flared 10.75p to 308.75p but Lasmo lost 5.75p to 127.5p. Tullow Oil, under pressure because of its failure to hit the jackpot in Bangladesh, rallied 4.5p to 56.5p on stories of an Egyptian

RJB Mining shaded 0.5p to 61.5p as the possibility of a miners' strike continued to haunt the hard pressed group. Talks about resolving the dispute

are due to take place today. Depressed properties showed signs of life with Tops Estates leading the way with a 20p gain to 117.5p. Netcall jumped 16.5p to 66.5p on reports a bidder is interested in the telecoms group.

SEAQ VOLUME: 946.6M SEAQ TRADES: 8,7663 GILTS: 113.3-0.15

Healthy boost for Nycomed shares after £223m profit

NYCOMED AMERSHAM, the BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA Anglo-Norwegian health technology group, yesterday The performance of Ny-pleased the City with a solid set comed's imaging products, of results despite tough conditions in some of its important eases, was one of the City's

The company, which produces high-technology equipment to diagnose diseases and test drugs, dispelled some of the stock market's worst fears with a 12 per cent rise in 1998 pretax profits to £222.8m. Sales were up 1 per cent to £1.38bn.

The figures were at the top end of analysts' expectations, and triggered a 25p rise in the share price to a five-year high of 460p. The stock was also boosted by the announcement that the group, formed from the 1997 link-up between Britain's Amersham and Norway's Nycomed, had achieved £32m of merger savings and was "firmly on course" to meet its target of £70m annual cost cuts from next year. The final results, the first since the merger, were buoyed by good sales growth in the group's core imaging and

the price of X-ray equipment in the important US market amid fierce competition, and it had been feared that the fall in those products could drag down the whole division.

However, profits in the imaging division, accounting for nearly 60 per cent of group profits, rose 14 per cent to £158.9m. Bill Castell, chief executive, said sales growth in Nycomed's high-technology products had offset the expected collapse in X-ray turnover

Star performers were the heart-imaging agent Myoview, which experienced a 43 per cent leap in sales, and iodine seeds, used to treat prostate cancer, where turnover more than doubled. Mr Castell said that this year the division should benefit from an im-

Market value: £2.9bn, share price 460p (+25p)

Trading record used to diagnose and treat dis-Turnover (Ébn) 1.38 198.60 Pre-tax profits (£m) 222.80 main worries. The company has been hit hard by a slump in Earnings per share (p) 17.60 20.00 4 60 Dividends per share (p) Sales by region Share price 500 ·

Restof World

should be flat in 1999," he said. But even if X-rays recover.

100 94 95 96 97 98 99 market. "We think that the they are a low-margin product. market has bottomed out and The key to the group's future

growth lies in its more sophisticated, higher-margin equipthey are unlikely to provide ment. Myoview and iodine

1.51

253.00

22.00

and should grow strongly in the next few years as they increase penetration of the lucrative US

The pipeline looks interesting, with an ultrasound heart product and a device to detect Parkinson's disease expected to yield solid sales.

On the drug research side, Nycomed's pledge to buy out its joint venture partner. Pharmacia & Upjohn, in the near term will give it control of a cash-generative business.

The company's promised disposal of its underperforming drug division, which last year suffered a fall in profits due to the Russian financial crisis, will also help to streamline

Michael King, pharmaceutical analyst at SG Securities. believes that, given Nycomed's earnings potential, the shares - on 21 times 1999 forecast earnings of £253m - are a buy:

"I am forecasting earnings growth of 12 to 15 per cent in the long term and I believe that (the share price) is still good value.

CMG shrugs off Clouds dim prospects fear of downturn for Thomson Travel

CMG, the Anglo-Dutch com- By PETER THAL LARSEN puter services group, yesterday brushed offfears of a slowdown in the information technology sector with a confident predicwould continue to be strong.

Cor Stutterheim, CMG chairman, admitted that worries about the year 2000 comcompanies to put projects on hold in the second half. However he stressed that CMG's long-term ties with customers meant it would continue to outperform the market.

Chris Banks, finance director, said: "Public perception may be of a slowdown in some areas, but we don't see any reason for a slowdown. Demand remains strong."

CMG reported pre-tax profits of £57.5m for the year to De-, earnings multiple of about 45. cember, comfortably ahead of Although CMG is considered analysts' expectations. Excluding goodwill amortisation and exchange rates, profits grew 58 per cent.

The growth was helped by a sharp rise in margins in CMG's business in the Benelux, its tion that demand for its services most important geographical area. However, Mr Banks warned that margins - which hit 18.4 per cent last year - were likely to fall to 14 to 16 per cent puter bug might cause in the next few years. The company expects to increase margins at its fledgling divisions in France and Germany.

Mr Stutterheim said CMG would continue to expand through acquisitions in continental Europe, but was not interested in buying in the US.

Analysts yesterday upgraded profit forecasts for the company to around £75m, which outs the shares - up 59p at 1812p yesterday – on a forward stocks, most analysts believe that at this level the shares are no more than a hold.

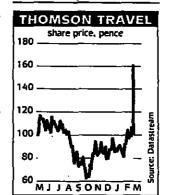
THOMSON TRAVEL Group, Britain's largest package holiday company, which came to the market last year, yesterday pledged to fight to hold its position as speculation increased that third-placed First Choice Holidays will fall to a bid. Airtours and Preussag, the domi-nant shareholder in Thomas Cook, are the most likely buyers.

Thomson holds 29 per cent of the UK market for holidays booked through travel agents, ahead of Airtours with 17 per cent and First Choice and Thomas Cook with 16 per cent. The company said it expect-

ed to play "a key role" in the consolidation sweeping the holidays industry in Europe. After seven acquisitions since the float, it is looking for bolt-on deals in Europe, especially in Germany and the Benelux countries.

The comments came as rise in full-year profits to £122.9m. However, Thomson shares fell 10.5p to 161p, below

By NIGEL COPE **Associate City Editor**



the 1700 issue price last May, on a disappointing trading update. Thomson's bookings for summer this year are 2 per cent lower than the period last year.

This is better than the industry average of a 3 per cent fall, but announced by Airtours. Thomson has proved a dis-

500,000 small investors who subscribed. They should be encouraged that capacity has been cut by 3 per cent this summer, reducing the danger of a glut of discounted holidays.

Thomson is expanding outside the UK-it now operates in eight countries – and developing its higher margin specialist holidays with purchases such as the Simply Travel Headwater business. It is also growing its travel agency chain. with yesterday's £3.5m acquisition of the Robert Sibbald network in Scotland taking its total high-street portfolio to 840.

But there are clouds on the horizon. One is the prospect of Airtours exploiting its strength with more capacity. Another is the uncertainty over First Choice and the possibility of an aggressive overseas operator invading the UK market.

£137m, the shares trade on a forward rating of 16. Merrill Lynch appointing investment for the says that is high enough for now.

No black holes at the 'IC'

WHAT IS going on at Investors Chronicle, that revered weekly bible of the small investor? A mole tells us that several freelancers have been sent packing because whoever drew up the budget apparently forgot the magazine comes out weekly rather than monthly, forcing a

reassessment of priorities. Rumour has it the IC is having to find a few hundred thousand in savings to balance the books. An official spokesman for Pearson, which owns IC and its daily stablemate the FT, admitted to some belt tightening but insisted that any talk of black holes was wide of the mark. No doubt all will be revealed and more when Marjorie Scardino delivers the results on Wednesday.

He's all heart

BILL CASTELL, chief executive of Nycomed Amersham, the

PEOPLE AND **BUSINESS**

By John WILLCOCK

health technology group, is proud of the revolutionary products the company makes

people with heart defects. Mr Castell personally trots the globe testing rival heart products - so he must have one of the most tested hearts in the world. The chief executive told me vesterday: "Tm 51 so I need my heart testing anyway." How nice to combine business with

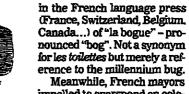
Oooh, Doctor!

OXFORD UNIVERSITY recently advertised six open lectures on the history of the political structure of British broadcasting, to be given by "the first News International Visiting Professor of Broadcasting Channel 5, Dr David Elstein".

The use of "Dr" prompted unkind speculation in media circles over the nature of the doctorate in question. Given Channel 5's much publicised output of late night soft porn recently, some suggested it might be a medical

qualification of some sort. Oxford subsequently admitted the doctorate was their invention, blaming the mistake on the traditional "temp in our office" and adding for the sake of complete accuracy: "News International called to say that he's an MA-from Cambridge."

Millennium bog All aboard



Canada...) of "la bogue" - pronounced "bog". Not a synonym for les toilettes but merely a reference to the millennium bug. Meanwhile, French mayors impelled to overspend on cele-

brations of the computer meltdown have coined a variation on noblesse oblige: "millionaire

Gas guzzlers

mist with CSFB, is worried about what Gordon Brown will say today on petrol duty. Mr Barrie owns six vintage racing cars - and whenever he races them at Le Mans and other tracks they guzzle petrol, averaging around six miles a gallon, I gather. Ouch. It's just as well Mr Barrie doesn't smoke and collect malt whisky.

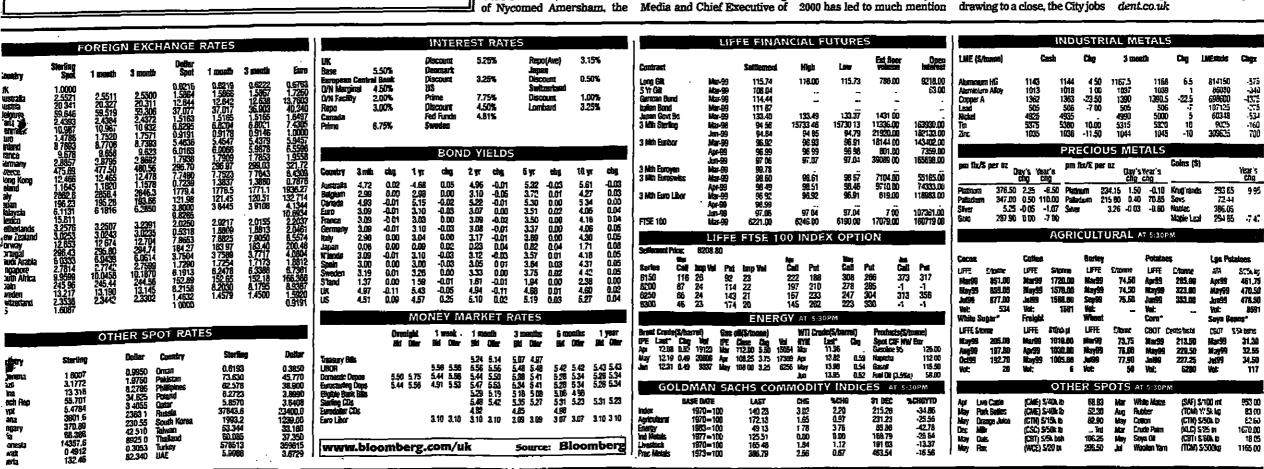
THE APPROACH of the year NOW THAT bonus season is

merry-go-round has started spinning again. Heading for the exit at the Bishopsgate offices of BTAlex.Brown, where the takeover by Deutsche Bank has unsettled spirits, are Alex Graham, head of global syndication and European capital markets, and Matthew Collins, head of European debt.

Mr Graham clearly could not measure up to Michael Cohrs. Deutsche's existing global head of syndication who was poached three years ago from Warburg for a rumoured \$2.5m a year. Mr Graham is off to Donaldson Lufkin Jenrette to be their new head of European equity capital markets, while Mr Collins is off to Merrill Lynch to work alongside Guy Dawson, himself a sometime Deutsche refugee as head of European leveraged finance on a rumoured package of £4m.

That leaves Deutsche and Merrill all square, Deutsche having poached leveraged finance hotshot Tom Gahan from Merrill a few weeks ago.

E-mail: j.willcock@indepen-



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SPORT

Premiership pressures: Pursuit of the championship under stricter refereeing is taking its toll

Prospects of success hidden in ethe cards

MARK LAWRENSON, the former BY GLENN MOORE Liverpool player now a media pundit; recalls taking over as manager of Oxford United late in the season and discovering his centre-halves had a brace of bookings between them. "That's when I knew we were in trouble," he said.

Lawrenson was a cultured defender but he knew that there were times when the boot had to go in. Successful teams are made of winpers and winners tend not to care whose toes they tread on, or ankles they clip, in pursuit of victory.

Such single minded determination can prove expensive as it leads to bookings, dismissals and suspensions. In the past this danger was reduced for good sides as they tended to dominate possession and were less likely to commit fouls. Thus the fine disciplinary records of Liverpool and Nottingham Forest in the 80s.

However, as the tempo of the game has increased, and referees become stricter, the better sides have also become regular offenders but this year two of the season's three heavyweights appear to be taking the principle of giving no quarter to extremes.

In all competitions Arsenal and Chelsea have each had seven players sent off, double the Premiership average and only exceeded within the division by Blackburn's nine. Arsenal have also received 66 yellow cards and Chelsea 82 - a figure only surpassed by Everton. This season Chelsea players have missed 31 matches through suspension. There will be more to come for they were at it again at the w three players booked, one of whom. Roberto Di Matteo, was then sent off.

Arsenal had four players booked.

The third contender, Manchester United, also finished a man short, Gunnar Solskjaer back, not for tak-Paul Scholes being dismissed in ing his legs from under him. Sunday's FA Cup tie with Chelsea. This would not have been unusual a largely survived the glut of suspenfew years ago when United were regarded as a snarling, bruising side with Paul Ince, Roy Keane, Eric Cantona, Mark Hughes and Steve Bruce due to the strength of their squads, forming a formidable backbone. Now, compared to Arsenal and Chelsea, they are relative angels. portant, remains to be seen. Al-Scholes was their fourth player to be ready the Chelsea match-day dismissed while their bookings tally, from 44 matches, four more than their rivals, is 65. They also top the

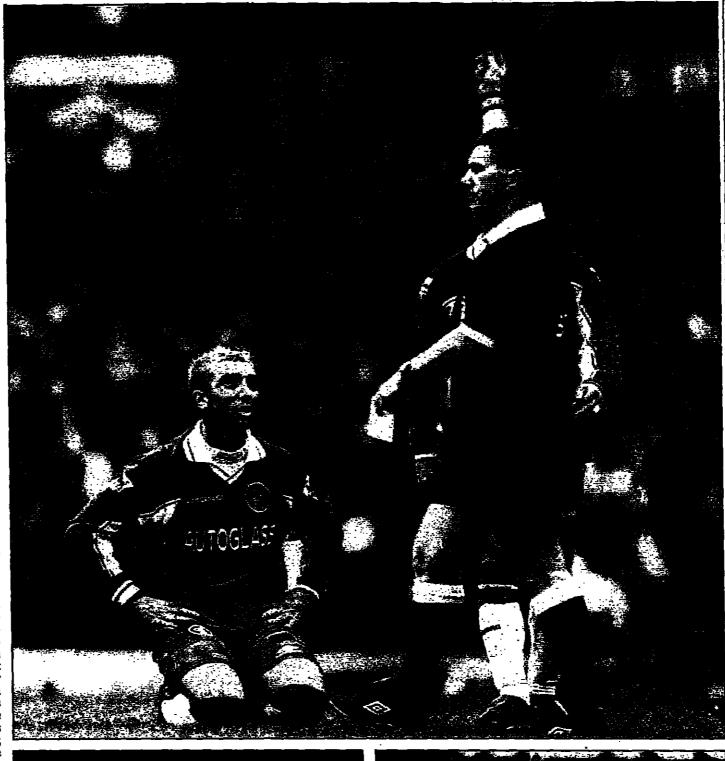
Football Correspondent

cident. As well as attempting to cuitivate a more appealing team, Ferguson has sought to reduce sussions which have previously cost United dear in Europe. But Ferguson could not resist criticising Sunday's referee, Paul Durkin, Gianluca Vialli, as usual, kept his own counsel and Arsène Wenger, unusually, sympathised with Saturday's official, Steve Dunn, Ferguson felt the yellow card tackles were "innocuous" but while Scholes' first booking seemed harsh his second invited a caution. Durkin could also have been harder on Roy Keane and Phil Neville. He said yesterday he was happy with his deci-sions having viewed the match video.

At Highbury, Wenger felt Dunn had "a difficult match", a belief exemplified by Lee Carsley's crunching firsthalf tackle on Dennis Bergkamp which he, correctly, allowed. Good though the tackle was it was high risk and this is where responsibility comes down to players rather than referees. Had Carsley mistimed his tackle by a fraction he could have been off. Mark Hughes and Dennis Wise may suggest, as they did on Sky, that such tackles are part of the game but it should be clear to players by now that they risk a caution at least.

A look at the scars on Marco van Basten's ankles is justification enough for the stricter refereeing. The answer, for defenders, is to stay on their feet as was brilliantly demonstrated by Marcel Desailly on Sunday. Time and again he not only dispos sessed his opponent but also won possession, which is not common when a tackler goes to ground. True, he was booked, but that was for pulling Ole

So far Arsenal and Chelsea have sions, though Arsenal's European campaign was severely undermined by their indiscipline. This is largely whether they continue to do so, as the games become ever more improgramme is left to reflect that. given the club's problems with suspensions, international call-ups and United's improvement is not an ac- So, at times, is its behaviour.







Fair Play League - Arsenal are joint injuries, selecting the side "is like Chelsea's Roberto Di Matteo (top) and Paul Scholes (bottom right) are dismissed by Paul Durkin during Sunday's FA Cup tie, seventh, Chelsea in the bottom half. running a Sunday morning team". while (bottom left) Steve Dunn shows Emmanuel Petit red against Wolves in the FA Cup fourth round Empics/PA/Allsport

Wednesday Europe hope

11th in the Premiership but the good behaviour of their players and Glenn Moore.

pean place has gone to representa- behaviour". tives of the top three nations in Uefa's Fair Play League, the means son's Uefa Cup. Next season it will be decided through domestic Fair lish clubs in Europe next season

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY may be Liverpool, Aston Villa, Sheffield Wednesday and Leicester City.

The Premier League refuses to fans may enable them to win a release the full table but revealed it place in Europe next season, writes is judged on and yellow cards. "positive play", "respect towards oppo-In previous years an extra Euro-nents and officials" and "supporter

England are second in Uefa's Fair Play ratings but, due to a change by which Aston Villa entered this sea- in the selection process, not sure of a place, so there may be only six Eng-Play Leagues, with the highest- three in the Champions' League placed team not otherwise qualified and three (the FA Cup winners and for Europe being chosen. Manches- fourth and fifth-placed Premiership ter United lead the table, followed by teams) in the expanded Uefa Cup.

	ROLL	OF	DISHONOUR	THE	TOP	THREE'S D	ISCIP	LINA	RY RECORD	
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atrick Vleira	8	1	Roberto Di Matteo	10	1	Paul Scholes	9	1	Arsenal	7
ligei Winterburn	9	0	Franck Lebeouf	9	1	Rov Keane	10	1	Aston Villa	
mmanuel Petit	-	5	Dennis Wise	6	3	Gary Neville	5	1	Blackburn	9
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		_	Gianfranco Zola	45	<u> </u>	Phillip Mulryne	-1 	Ų	Wimbledon	3

Elkington profits as Monster bites back

BY DOUG FERGUSON in Miami

STEVE ELKINGTON has won 10 times on the PGA Tour, but never oute like this. In a span of two hours, he took three putts on the 18th green on the Blue Monster, kicked in the side of a scoring trailer, watched the back nine from his room at the resort, warmed up for a play-off and then accepted a first-place cheque for \$540,000 (£341,000) without hitting another shot. The Doral-Ryder Open might not have had its usual array of star names, but it rarely lacks drama. Sunday was no exception.

Despite a bogey on the final hole. Elkington won the Doral in a thrilling finish that he never saw. He was on the practice range preparing to go back out to No 18 for a play-off when the toughest closing hole on the PGA Tour swallowed up Ernie Els and Greg Kraft. "Thank goodness they had to play that hole," said Elkington, who finished at 13-under 275 for a one-stroke victory over Kraft. "It's a very dangerous hole."

It nearly always decides the champion at Doral, and Elkington was well aware of this when he stood over a five-foot putt for par, trying to cap a 63 that he felt certain would be enough to win.

"I wanted to send a message," he said. "I didn't want to see them go 'Oh, he bogeyed the last. That's good.' I didn't want to leave any crumbs out there." But he did, and it was not long before Els and Kraft made a move. Els, trying to win his second straight 72-hole event on tour, scrambled from the sand for one par after another before converting one of only three birdle attempts on the back nine, a 12-footer on No 17 to tie.

Kraft, in the group behind, trying for his first official win on the PGA Tour, caught Elkington with a birdie on the 603-yard 12th, gave one back from the bunker on No 13 and rejoined the lead with a four-foot birdie on 17. Then the fun began.

Els was haunted by pulling every thing left at the worst possible time. With just 154 yards to the flag at the last his eight iron landed in the rough near the red hazard line. Needing to get it close to save par and force a play-off, the chip failed to get up the hill and trickled back down to virtually the same position.

Next came Kraft. With a five-iron he caught the ball so fat that it fell a good 20 yards short of the green. but he saved bogey for a 71 and second place by himself.

Justin Rose needs to take a step back according to John Bickerton, who took second place in the Algarve Portuguese Open on Sunday. The £44,000 collected lifted him to eighth on the Order of Merit and 13th in the Ryder Cup points table and brought his season's earnings to more than £100,000.

It was the perfect demonstration of what the Challenge Tour has to offer - Bickerton earned his card for this season by finishing sixth overall on that tour last year. He believes that Rose needs the same experience to end a streak of 15 consecutive missed cuts since he turned professional after his fourth place in the Open last year.

"I feel sorry for Justin," said Bickerton after his Penina play-off loss to Van Phillips, another Challenge Tour graduate. "He's having to deal with a lot of pressure at such a young age. The Challenge Tour would not be a bad thing to experience.

"You get used to travelling around Europe week after week, playing 72hole tournaments and building up your confidence. Once you've done that then you can build from there.

England helped by Gatland's poor selection policy

BEFORE THE latest round of Five Nations matches, the odds were: France 1-8, Wales 9-2, England 4-9 and Ireland 7-4. I thought the Irish price was generous, the Welsh distinctly on the mean side. Nevertheless I determined to have a bet. a silly bet, what the Sun likes to call "a bit of fun" whenever it has done anything particularly reprehensible.

So I invested, as the bookmakers put it, £20 (tax added) in a Wales-Ireland double. I thought I would go down at the first hurdle in Paris but that I might scrape over in Dublin, by which stage of the race, of course, it would be too late. But the race went quite the other

way. Ireland were a smudged copy of those who had beaten Wales -



ALAN WATKINS

harried France to within a missed penalty of defeat on the opening Saturday of the season.

This is not bindsight on my part. but I thought Warren Gatland, the unrecognisable as the outfit who had I rish coach, had made a mistake

when he chose Victor Costello before Eric Miller at No 8. In form, as he is, Miller is one of the best back row forwards in the competition. And though a lad as big and strong as Costello may be able to intimidate lesser mortals, he is not going to cause the slightest concern to the likes of Lawrence Dallaglio and Richard Hill, to say nothing of Tim Rodber and Martin Johnson

restore Reggie Corrigan at loosehead instead of playing Peter ship; Dallaglio joined in to much the Clohessy out of position? Or play two genuine jumping locks in Malcolm O'Kelly and Jeremy Davidson? Or make the place kicking cast iron with Simon Mason? Or recognise the most penetrative Irish back around. Darragh O'Mahony of Bedford?

Perhaps these changes would not pleased. In particular, I am less was born in Llanelli, played most of of what the politician Peter Walker have been enough to beat England. But there was a 15-minute period at the beginning of the second half when Ireland could have taken a convincing lead with a converted try. However, the backs lacked gnile.

Exactly the same could be said of the England backs for long stretches of the match. Even so, Clive Woodward said afterwards Why I wonder, does Gatland not that it had been the best England performance under his stewardsame effect; they were both echoed by assorted reporters; while Philip Matthews, that fine former Irish No 6, gave his opinion that England would have no difficulty in beating France at Twickenham.

though they won. They did not play badly against Wales but they lost. When they come to Twickenham their pride will be formidable. Though I think it eccentric to play Andrew Lewis in the second half. Emile Ntamack at full-back, in spite

must have two better centres than prudent and, as far as I know, unthe present combination, they may yet astonish us all in a few weeks. So may Wales at Wembley in April. Once again the enemy may be what the writer Hugh Kingsmill termed "dawnism".

outcome of the French match.

France played badly against Ireland

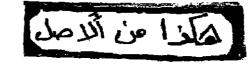
But at last Graham Henry, the coach, seems to have put together a plansible front row. Peter Rogers

confident than Matthews about the his rugby in South Africa, and then once called the problems of success. joined London Irish. But he has played little for their first team this season and little rugby of any description. Choosing him was a risk by Henry which turned out to be justified, though he was substituted by

-- With six replacements now of his three tries, and that France allowed, the Welsh coach took the performance. precedented course of having an entire front row - Lewis, Barry Williams and that old war horse John other war horse Garin Jenkins and Ben Evans, who, like the Quinnell brothers, had an excellent game.

He has to decide whether, subject to fitness, to restore Gareth Thomas, Allan Bateman and David Young for the theoretically friendly match against Italy in Treviso which precedes the Wembley encounter with England. To drop Evans, in particular, would be harsh after his Paris

The whole season has been interesting from the start. Now it is fascinating. If England succeed in winning the Grand Slam by beating Davies - on the bench ready to run France and then Wales, they will on, if necessary, for Rogers, that have proved themselves to be a very good side indeed - a rather better side than I think they now are, despite the satisfaction after the All of a sudden, Henry is a victim Irish match.



They all seem somewhat easily

Suny times again for Sherwood

does not deserve another Cheltenham Festival winner. He as a jockey and a trainer, bathing him in the spotlight suf-

When Desert Orchid won a Gold Cup he was the man blessed to be at the controls, but it was not a spinning occasion he let go to his head.

These days at least, Sherwood is not a hampers and

RICHARD EDMONDSON Nap: Wise Gunner (Exeter 2.50) NB: True Fortune (Exeter 3.20)

champers customer who attends Prestbury Park just for the bubbles. He goes to compete. He goes to win "I've had five runners at the meeting, two winners and a third," the mas-

ter of Uplands said yesterday. Dusty Miller and Duke Of athletes, animals which com- where Suny Bay was pulled up. punctured at the lodgings of his

plemented the other achievehas enjoyed great glories both ments around a saddle, including a victory for Barnbrook Again in the Queen Mother Champion Chase.

There were nine Festival winners in six years as a jockey for Sherwood, but the ones that matter now are the stamping heasts that will charge the tape next week. This hopeful team includes Door To Door, No Forecast, who was second to the much vaunted favourite for

Old Surry would have been favourite to win a Blue Riband had the evidence been limited to the end of last year. The sparkling grey beat Escartefigue by five lengths, giving him 4lb. at Haydock in November which now transnires to be golden form. It is also forgotten

What seems more pertinent Monmouth were the training is a run at Leopardstown,

SIMON SHERWOOD probably BY RICHARD EDMONDSON It seems he now has to do the same with his socks. "He had that blip in Ireland and everyone seemed to forget about him," Sherwood says. "He had a bit of a sore throat when be came back but I think the reason was the [sticky] ground. I don't think he wants dead ground and now he's a rela-

> tively fresh horse. "He's intended to go for both this and Liverpool and he is realistically a Grand National type even when he may be handicapped worse for that the bumper, Golden Alpha, at race. He's got one bit of work Newbury recently, and Suny and one more bit of school and hopefully he'll be at Chel-

> > "He wins first time out every season so that's the idea about freshening him up for this. He's not running at the Festival for forts). the sake of it. He's not a social

that hotelier, not the same com-

Direct Route burst a blood

vessel when disappointing be-

hind Teeton Mill at Ascot last

proving somewhat drawn out.

Direct Route may not be a runner at the meeting at all. The one-time favourite for the-Queen Mother Champion Chase has had his preparation talk about ruling his eight-year-

trainer. Howard Johnson (not letin will come only at the end whether you have backed him lecting the County Hurdle the double are Dr Jazz and Heros of the week. "It's completely at the right time. The occasional

time and the recuperation is with him. The same analysis could Johnson is serious enough to old out, though a definite bul-

flooded out here and he hasn't warrior is one of four Martin been out of his box," the train- Pipe entries in the Imperial Cup er said yesterday. "To be hon- at Sandown on Saturday, which est. I haven't a clue what to do may see his return over hur-

This is a contest which Pipe apply to Challenger Du Luc, won 12 months ago with Blowwho is either enigmatic or a ing Wind, who went on to secure complete dog depending on a £50,000 bonus by also col-

following week.

Challenger Du Luc is also entered in the Coral Cup and ty Hurdle, was runner-up to the the Mildmay of Flete and may also be seen flipping burgers in Newbury on his latest start, a towable van such is Pipe's ap- while Heros Fatal, a considerparent eagerness to get the best return out of him. Others who may attempt to replicate a Pipe Sandown and Cheitenham

Dr Jazz, who is in the Counhighly rated novice The Fly at ation for both the Coral Cup and County Hurdle, arrives for the Festival armed with a victory at

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EXETER

HYPERION 2.20 Little Flims 4.20 KELLYS CONQUEST (nap) 2.50 Wise Gunner (nb) 3.20 True Fortune 4.50 Ranger Sloane

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

GOING: Soft (Good to Soft in places).

Right-hand, undulating course, Stiff test of stamins. Run-in of 250 yards.

Course is 5m SW of Easter on A38. ADMISSION: Grandstand & Pacidock E11; Siver Ring E5, Under-16s tree. CAR PARK: E2 on male; E2 members; remainder free.

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

LEADING TRAINERS: M Pipe 82 winners from 284 numers (success rate 23.5%).

Mise H Kright 33-130 (25.4%), P Hobbs 30-142 (21.1%), R Frost 21.189 (12.4%).

LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dumwoody 38 wins from 15 rides (success rate 31.3%), A P McCoy 28-151 (85.5%), J Frost 18-137 (33.%), J Osborne 17-66 (25.8%).

EAVOURITES: 185 wins in 512 races (38.1%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Dalay (2.20), Greycost Boy (4.20).

1			
	2	.20	CHAGFORD MARES SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) \$2,000 added 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value \$1,576
1	1	66636	SPIRIT LEVEL (35) (CD) (J.R. Payne) J.R. Payne 11 Tt. 12
ł	2	5253P4	SUMMER PLOWER (13) (D) (B Ward) Mass Z Davison 9 Tt 9
ı	3		TRUE VISION (14) (R Heddich) M Pipe 5 tl 7
1	4	/P0P4-	POT BLACKERRO (1989) (H Bibbey) A Brotherson 10 11 6 R Johnson
1	5		DAUSY (16) (G K Hullett) R Baler 6 11 1
ł	6		SANDANTE (6) (CD) (M. West) R Buckler 8 to 11
ł	7	040233	REMEMBER STAP (P18) (Gerard Duckhaven Stud) A Baker 6 10 10 V Stattary
	8	OPUP5	RUBY BEAR (14) (D J Kirdand) W Brisbourne 4 10 8
	9		VEILED DANCER (34) (N J Holdsworth) R Frost 6 to 8
	10	PP6-0	LITTLE FLEMS (14) (Bowling Green Garage Ltd) M Shappard 8 to 8
		n.as	LEMBRED COMPERS AND A COMPANY OF LEMBRED A VIS.

FORM GUIDE

Spirit Level: 7to higher mark for course win over further (2m7t, best Divine Chance in setter) and just held on book by Sandarite. Stiff teak in better class test time Stramer Flower: Faded from final flight when lawourite and 3rd to Park Royal in Ling-field selter in February. Jumped bedry when 4th to Charlie Charlig at Folkestone True Vision: Ex-Bill Turner mare. Pulsed hard on seasonal run when a 8-length 3rd to Sharbadarid in claimer at Ludiow. Sure to figure in this grade Pot Blackfolnd: Improved run on final start last season when a staying-on 4th of 15 to Backview in Herstord seller. First run since Datay: Cracitable 4th to Galan in summer maiden hurdle at Worcester. Pulled up in two sellers since and now thred in headnest. Soft cround a worny

Dalay: Creditable 4th to Galan in summer maiden jurcle at Worcester. Pulled up in two selers since and now tried in headgear. Soft ground a worry Sandamita. Given positive ride to beat Viscount Tully and Spirit Lavel (it to worse) over CSD in January. Modest-form (last two in selera) ence. Research of Star: Placed in smaller fields (Sib out of handicap when 3rd to Crazy Crusader at Newton Abbot latest) and possibly not good enough again Ruby Bear: Best effort last time when 5th of 14 (6 lengths behind True Vision and now 7b better off) to Sharbadarid in Judiow dalare. Veilled Dancer: Leading when fell four out in non-seller won by Dancing Poser over a longer trip (2mi6f) here. Pulled up both starts since but chances in a seller (Ittle Films: Little primse last term and in need of run on respipearance in claimer (meets True Vision on 19th better terms). Hearbury Princetes: Has contested three better races without showing too much. Might last ride a more premiers that in this grade.

VERDICT: TRUE VISION showed enough on her first start for Martin Pipe to suggest she can win this poor seller. Sendentie has a chance now that she returns to the scene of her seller win, and there are interesting jockey bookings with Richard Johnson having his only ride at the meeting on Pot Backbird and Germ Romey on Little Films, who gets a sceable weight put with True Vision on Ludow running.

2.50 SOUTH WEST RACING AMATEURS 'NH' NOVICE HUR-DLE (E) \$2,900 2m 1f 110yds Penalty Value \$2,326

FORM GUIDE

Wise Gunner: Showed gimmer of ability for Gordon Richards and ran out 5-length wraner from Arms Gall at Plumpton on first run for new trainer, Acts on testing ground flasten Basic Deplayed promise in two points but faded and beginning way in bumper won by Mestre Sala at Wincenton last month. Way lack necessary pace today Pancho's Tango: Four times wraner over fences in heavy ground in Ireland. First start for new connections and without action since early-November. Pot Black Uic Shaped well in two bumpers and stir of 12 to Dictum at Uttoseter (2m45) on second hurdes start: First inn hear for two years. Wilched Garner Telled off in two bumpers, the latest behind Sandy Duff at Ludlow Dawn Spitnier. Well-related mane (half-asser to The Tsarenich) and debut winner of mares' bumper at Hereford (good): Fell second on belated reappearance. Robonstita: Garned two bumper wins in November Isoft) but hurdes form disappointing, the latest when a taled off 5th to Deep C Disa at Plumpton.

VERDICT: Being related to The Tearewich, there is a good chance that Dewn Splinner will always be a more potent force on better ground than this. There is a race in Pot Black Uit but probably not today after such a lay-off. The race is week anough for WISE GUINNER to add to her Pumpton win. There could still be improvement to come and the mare is tried and tested in heavy ground.

3	.20	TOTE HALDON NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) 210,000 3m 6f Penaity Value 27,415
1	F-P4P0	ST MELLION FARWAY (15) (St Mellon Estates) M Pipe 10 11 10 A P McCoy
2	32F8F	SRIPSON (41) (Excrs of late J Bicket) J Old 14 17 2
3		GIGI BEACH (70) (C I A Paterson) P Nicholls 8 11 2
4	23-F21	SELATAN (15) (Staright Recing) D Gandolfo 7 11 1
5		RED PARADE (NZ) (760) (R J Peale) N Havis 11 11 0
6	P4P352	TREASURE AGAIN (11) (J H Gwynne) Mrs M Jones 10 ff 0
7	4-3556	PENNYMOOR PRINCE (15) (C) (N W Lake) R Prost 13 11 0
8		TRUE PORTURE (25) (J Mile) V Dartrell 9 to 13 J Culloty
9	Q-1P35	SPRENG MARATHON (112) (Mrs N Outleid) Mrs N Outleid 9 10 11
10	0125	KIRRIAHALLA (19) (R. J. Spencer) G Belding 7 109
Ħ	P-026P	MAURACHAS (19) FT W Guiting! M Shepperd 9 10 6
2		SECRET BID (84) (Droop Partners) R Alber 9 TO 8
		= 12 declared

FORM GUIDE

St MeBion Fairway: Mudiover and decent novice during 1985-96. Has lost his way and faded after leading when 57 langths behind Selatan at Fortiwell last time Strapson: Capable stayer on his day. Fell midway on reappearance in Lingfield race won by Gritzly Bear. Same handcap ment as when last successful. Wants mud Gigl Beach Dual novice whose Handcap ment as when last successful. Wants mud Gigl Beach Dual novice whose Handcap set to score in handcaps and same mark as when an 19-length 4th to No Fidding at Taunton. Now given more of stamins test. Seletan: Overcame mistake two out to lead final 100-yerds (beat Shenagore Warnton) at Fortived (Bm2) after 2nd to Mystic late at Foldestons. 50 higher today. Read Parade: Promising bumper and hundles where but lightly raced over recent years. Stiff test on first outing since February 1937. Treasure Analis: Formerly decent staving hundler and better showing over lences last.

Stiff test on first outing since February 1997
Treasure Again: Formerly decent staying hurder and better showing over lences last time when a 4-length 2nd to Printe Example at Market Resen (3m4).
Pennymor Princes: Best in heavy ground. 10b lower mark than Chepstow win last season and ground too last when 8th to Seletan at Fortwell last time. Fine chance Thus Fortune: Decent stayer and upsides Kingdom Of Strades when felt two out at

Spring Merethon: Stayed well over hurdes. Stiff tasks in novices after Newton, Abbot win. Held on tasks form (franciosp) by Gig Beach (Kimpinsis: Winner at Ludlow over 3m 3f and Wincardon winner afterwerds (some mark). Stiff task at Sandown last time (sast of 5 finelines to Looks Like Trouble) Masurachiais: Formerly with Jenny Pitmen, 6-lingth 2nd to Soom Dute here (2m7). Tailed off when pulled up behind Refiles Rooster at Taunton last time. Wants a trip.

VERDICT: Seletian fought back well at Fontwell and he halls from a stable having a good run. He is now over a longer trip in more testing conditions, which brings into the argument the less of PENNINGOR PRINCE, it we Fortune and Treesure Again. Related Frosts change was a long way behind Seletian at Fontwell, but he has been welting for

a stamina slog and certainly gats it today.
3.50 RALEIGH GILBERT MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (CLASE) 25,250 added 2m 3f Penalty Value £3,711

ı	لتتنا	D) 13,430 added 200 3t Length Affice 13'.	
1	001/6	BLANCHLAND (21) (Mrs S Welson) P Filthers 10 11 2	C Maude
2	234P-F	ERACEY RUN (122) (Doublepain) J Old 9 11 2	C Lipsophys
3	3 033615	CENTO (47) (D) (B M YH) Mrs S Williams 6 11 2	S Wyrpre B
4	U 4₽1/ }~	CRACK REGIMENT (408) (Newtyman) A Buckler 7 (1 2	
5	-54F5F	DEFENDTHEREALM (36) (G Standing) R Front 8 ti 2	J Frost
•	3 1115 5₽	FADI (96) (stands Recing) R Baker 8 1 2	Shenkin (知 8
7	7 29-305	MILLCROFT REGATTA (73) (J Carter) R Alber 7 (1 2 ,	A Therefor
8	B 1/P64	RASHSION (42) (B Kesyl G Balding 8 11 2	APMcCor
9	-43464	SCAPLET RAMBLER (34) (0) (R C Buridge) R Frost 10 11 2	O'Comor (7)
1	10 1/0503	STORM DUST (15) (C2) (Mes & Tice) Mes H Knight 10 11 2	
1	n 0-00	TACO'S REVENCE (66) (M D McMary) & McMary 8 11 2	V Stattery
		- 17 deciared -	
-		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

BETTING: 2-1 Bracey Run, 9-4 Storm Dont, 8-1 Restrakin, Defenditheresin, 8-1 Crack Registent, 10-1 Milliand Regular, Carlo, 14-1 others 10-1 MBC:roft Regatia, Cento, 14-1 othera 1998: Garsyhson 7 11 2 J Cullety 7-2 (Mae H Knight) 8 ran

FORM GUIDE

Blanchland: Narrow wither of malder hurder at Uttoweter in May 1998. Modest 6th to Branthles Way in claimer at Lacester on respiperance and now on cheek debut Bracoy Run: Talented hurder last sesson (soft ground Towcester winner) and close up on chasing debut at Chepatiow when fell 12th in Inbest race. Reside for hour months Centor: Tournon hurdes witner by 6 lengths from Upham Surprise (2m3f) but well held over same C&D next time (won by Lifet Work). Chasing newcomer Crack Regiment: Won only start in points last year: Stable to be respected Defendiblereatins: Both hurde wins gained over 2m8f at Newton Abbot. Modest form over lences and may find this tip too short.

Fadt: Plater over hurdes and gurgled last time. Hard to fancy on chasing debut Millbordt Register. Modest form over fences and was strugging from time out in Miss.

Militroft Regelte: Modest form over fences and was strugging from three out in Miss Pennyhilis hundicap over this trip at Herelord (soft ground) last time Reshelde: Won Insh point in 1997 and highly tried behind Mariborough, Mejadou and sed this term. Likely to improve sembler: Just one hurdles win from 18 starts. Modest over tences and well

heid in a seller two outings ago Storm Duat: Preterred fastish ground over hurdles (4 wins) and has had leg problems Storm Dust: Preterred listish ground over hurdes (4 wins) and has had leg problems. Storf task and shaped with promise, on chase debut when a 10-length 3rd (led times out till next) to warm favourite Holdimclose at Fortwell (2m/3f) Taco's Revenge: Heyed promisent part until 3f out on bumper debut but no promise since in safety race, Jumps fences for first time

/ERDICT: Storm Dust shaped wall enough at Fontwell on his chasing debut and the stable won this novice 12 months ago. The more testing ground is a worry and preference is for the smart BRACEY RUN, even though Jim Old has had him off the course

4.20 EGGESFORD NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 2f Penalty Value £2,406

	36FF PQ	AMUTHEBAMBO (15) (Mrs M Shenkin) R Baker 6 10 12 G Shenkin (2) 8
		CORINTHIAN GOLD (Mrs C J Dunn) R Budder 8 10 12
		EZANAK (19) (BF) (West Lockings Partnership) Miss H Knight 6,10 12
	2/4333	GREYCOAT BOY (5) (N W Ringlyon) J King 7 10 12
	0/320	JAZZ DUKE (12) [M J Weeden) M J Weeden 6 10 12
	-1422	LADY OF GORTTA(ERRON (14) (C) (Chellenhem Racing) N F/Device 7 to 12 C Literation
	246850	SHADIRRIVAN (6) (C Popinem) C Popinem 8 10 12
	0-85	ERANSCOMBE (20) (Azmirater Carpeta Ltd) Mrs N Dutfield 6 to 7
	1672	KELLYS CONQUEST (13) & G Mathema) S.J Malina 6 10 7A Thouston
•	DOD-PO	SEE MDBICOV III Rijes S Waterment May S Waterman R 10.7 No. 10 Colleges (7)

- 10 declared -BETTING: 9-4 Lady Of Gortmenton, 11-4 Kellys Cont Duke, 20-1 Coringhism Gold, Branscombe, 33-1 oth ian Gold, Ba SOAT: Echnonic 6 tf 4 R Thomas 6-4 fee (T Forster) 10 res

FORM GUIDE

Amothebembo: Tailed off in staying handicaps and again at Fortwell lest time in the novice won by the odde-on Arctic Cemper

Contathian Gold: Half-brother to some winning jumpers. Likely to need this debut run talic Has twice finished strongly over 2m8f at Sendown, behind Stomatic and Ten pestucus Lady. May have found sharper Taurdon against him in between Greycost Boy: Proved difficult ride at Taurdon last week when 3rd to Master Rastus

and now the parties of the provides and when the provides and the provides trind. Stiff task atterwards when tailed off behind Lord Noelle at Wincanton (2m8f) 13m2ft, 2nd to Buck's Pelisco in novice at Littoerier and 4th to Mister Generosity under

and now tried bilinkered. Good previous effort when 3rd to Tempesturus Lady in Sandows

bg weight in Ludlow handloop (2m2f) last time. Shadlowen: Not the force of old and only 8th in Chapstow seller last time on hurdles debut when 5th of 15 to Conchotor at Folkestone (2m8f). Can impro Kellys Conquest: Winner of a point and shaped well until failing at last in Lingüeld ISCS Won by the decent Kates Charm. Fine 2nd to Hot To Trot at Foliastone last it See Mirmow: Beaten in sellers, the latest behind Pridewood Fuggle et Chapstow

VERDICT: Extract looks as though he could stay forever, so his chance must be respecial over this standing test. Graycoat Boy is closely matched with him on Sandown form and it is no surprise to see Jeff King fit the blinkers eiter his showing at Taunton ast week. Lady Of Gortmetton is another who should raish the trip but the main fano is for KELLY'S CONGUEST, who has looked promising over shorter trips.

4.50 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 2m

7.00	1f 110yds Penalty Value £2,786
0/314-	KBIG MOLE (411) (BF) (Mrs J Fowler) J Old 8 120
U21311.	LIZZYS FIRST (19) (CD) (Exe Valley Recing) 6 R Milman 7 tt 7
012-P	NOSEL LAD (88) (J Herineti) M Pipe 5 11 8A P NoCoy
	SURFRISE SPECIAL (22) (CD) (F.A. Landrigan) P Rodlard 6 ti 0
460133	ADVANCE EAST (5) (A.J. Huichings) C Pophism 7 to 11
943804	RANGER SLOAME (12) (D) (G Fierro) G Fierro 7 10 8
	a declared

SETTING: 7-4 Lizzys First, 7-2 Secrice Special, 4-1 King Mole, 5-1 Advance East, 6-1 Nobel Lad

FORM GUIDE

King Mole: Made all to best Mr Magnetic at Stretford (2mbf). Only 4th to Never in Debt Nutrig motion report as an own are management and account (correct, unity as to report as the cover shorter into at Baumton (2m3) in January 1998 and first run since
Lizzys First: Easy winner of last two starts at Taunton and earlier an 8-length winner over this C&D. Raised an extra 9th today. Acts well in soft ground Pulled up at Ludiow in conditional jockeys' race on reappearance Survivas Special: Gained both wire here last season and creditable 2nd to the bet-ter-class Allez Wijns at Plumpton (2m4f) feet time. Likes soft ground Advance East: Won Plumpton seller in February, Led times out till next when a 7-length 3rd to Two Lords at Luctow (2m3t) last week. Today's shorter trip may help Renger Stoams: Has dropped down the weights and stiff task at Wincenton last time when 4th to Hot 'N Saucy, Has won in soft ground at Haydock (8th lower here) VERDICT: Lizzys First is on a feet-trick efter easy wins at Tauriton and he will take the beating, even though he now shoulders a bigger weight. But the value is with SUN-RISE SPECIAL, who has shown a liking for this course and a good-enough second to the Chaltenham-bound Alez Wijns at Plumpton. King Note is faced with a sam test

with 12st, but Ranger Stoune can go close at the other end of the handicap.

Lingfield last month ANTE-POST UPDATE

ARKLE CHALLENGE TROPHY NOVICE CHASE (2m) 1211 THIS SORE M Mooris fith the that the -tif ASHIWADDA GOLD T Tale 7yo 11st 8b 211 FLAGSHIP UBGRALLES PALCOS Soc 11st III MAJAOOU III Pipe Syo Est - 19-1 19-1 10-1 10-1 1-21 GHS DESTRUMAL M Pipe 5/o 14st 74 104 104 114 8 Each way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Challeshays, Totacher 16 March)

CHAMPION HURDLE (2m 110yds)									
		- · _ C	H	L	8	. 1			
1111	ISTABRAQ AP OBIEN (A) 7yo 12x	1-2	47	47	47	14			
P212	FRENCH HOLLY F Murphy Byo 12st	6-1	6-1	7-1	13-2	5-1			
443	THEATRIENCHED A P Orbiton (b) 7yo 12st	20-1	16-1	20-1	20:1	15-1			
1281	GREY SHOT Balding Tyo 12st	25-1	25- 1	25-1	조 -1	25-1			
472	BLOWING WIND M Pipe 8yo 12st	33-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	33-			
	Each way a quader the outils, pieces 1, 2, 3 (Chair	enhers, Tuesc	tey 18 M	archi					

	QUEEN MOTHER CHAMPION CHASE (2m)									
		C	н	L	S	_ 7				
421	EDREDON BLEU Mess H Kinght 7yo 12st .	7-2	7-2	41	41	7-				
ĦЭ	CALL BOURANTE P Notado 8yo 12st	72	7-2	3-1	92	3				
224	CORRECT ROUTE J.H. Johnson Byo 12st	5-1	712	51	41-2	5				
184	ASK TOM T Tale 10/0 12xt	10-1	10-1	10-1	12-1	9				
231	CEUBATE C Mann Byo 12st	12-1	12-1	12-1	14-1	10				

		<u>. c</u>	H	L	_ 8	1
2 2 3	GALANT MOSS M Pipe Syo TOs, 16	. 64	5-1	6-1	6-1	6-
40P1	KONGS MEASURE J W Jaffaragn Byo 10at 3b	104	10-1	_	12-1	12
271	SASTER ROSS N Handamon 6yo 10st 1fb	. 12-1	12-1	15-1	16-1	14-
3913	MELOSTY MAID N Henderson 7yo Rst 11b	13-1	12-1	12-1	12-1	16
2-152	SER TALBOT JOH Syc Ref Tab	· 10-1	14-1	14-1	74-1	18-

		€	H	Ļ	8	
Uttt	NCK DUNDEE E OGacy (\$4.7)o 11st 4b	74	2-1	7-4	21	9
1122	SPENCED D Nicholson 7yo 1ust 4b		8-1	8-1	13-2	_ 8
20	KADOU NONANTAIS O Shewood Byo Tiet 4b	8-1	18-1	18-1	70-1	10
Pzn	LORD OF THE RIVER O Sterwood 7yo tist 4b	7-1	10-1	10-1	10-1	10
721	WANDOU M Pipe Syn that Sh	7-1	10-1	8-1	7-1	7

TRIUMPH HURDLE (2m 1f)							
		C	H	L	8	_ T	
341	KATABINO N Hendeson 4ys 11st	7-2	7-2	7-2	7-2	7-2	
m	(ARE EDGE N CRism (ch 4/s 1/s)	7-1	7-1	8-1	8-1	8-1	
惟	CANGERUS PRECEDENT C Egenton 4yo flux	B-1	8-1	8-1	9-1	8-1	
PZX	SMAPLY CAFTED TO Employ 4yo first	10-1	8-1	B-1	10-t	91	
31	AFARAD C Rocks (4) 4yo fist	10-1	10-1	12-1	8-1	10-1	
	Sectivity a quater the orbits, places 1, 2, 3 (C)	alerine, Trans	by 18 M	ch)			

						_		
STAYERS' HURDLE (3m 1f)								
		C	H	L	S	T		
411	LADY REDECCA Mos V Williams 7/10 Test 5/b	84	84	94	3-1	52		
121	DENNO'S BEAMO M Pipe 7yo 11st 10to	3-1	7-2	7-2	41	7.2		
柏	LE COUDRAY A P CRagn (4) Syd flet 10b	41	7-2	3-1	7-2	7-2		
1-5	MARELLO Mas M Readby Byo Rel Sto	24	14-1	12-1	12-1	£9		
441	- GO ENFORMAL J M Jellemen Byo Sut 10b	*1	20-1	14-1	B-1	25- 1		

East-way a quarter the cities, places 1, 2, 3 (Cindlesham, Thursday 18 March)

						
(HELTENHAM GOLD CUP	CHASE (3	m 2f	110	yds)	
		C	អ	L	S	T
1 P I	FLOREDA PERFL W Multis #17 7yo 12st	- 114	11-4	52	114	52
_tti	THE TOTAL MELT MAKE Y WHEN THE TOP TO	52	71-4	52	3-1	11-4
121	DOUGHES HANDE IT HOWERS ON 100 524	64	8-1	8-1	8-1	B4
2-11	DOUBLE THRULER & Notate Syn 12st	B1	7-1	7-1	8-1	81
2322	SCARTERGUE Distributing Type 2st		B-1	7-1	11-1	91
1Pi	UNSBEKABLE BOXER M Poe Dio 2st	21	14-1	16-1	14-1	14-1
-	Contract of the state of					

	COUNTY HANDICAP	HURDLE	(2m	1 <i>t</i>)		
	·		H	L	5	т
2421	DECOUPMENT C Égerton 7/o 10st 12th	8-1	10-1	8-1	8-1	9-1
330-	TOAST THE SPREECE & Pipe 7yo 10xt 98b	B-1	10-1	10-1	18-1	7-1
21	ISMENO D Equarto Byo Sat 106	12-1	12-1	14-1	22-1	16-1
271	PREMIER CHIEFACTION IN Headquist 6yo Set Sib	**	12-1	14-1	16-1	P 1
123	MASTER SEATLED P Cores Syn flat Mb	#1	_	_	16-1	20-1

-5-

NATIONAL HUNT FESTIVAL '99

16TH - 17TH - 18TH MARCH TUES/WEDS CLUB £60 TATTERSALLS £30 COURAGE £15 **AVAILABLE ON ARRIVAL** THURSDAY SOLD OUT

CHELTENHAM

*THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES $0891\ 261\ +$ LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS

972 982 SEDGEFIELD 973 983

0891<u>261 970</u>

Going: Soft, Good to Soft in Places

2,20; (2m 21 110yds malden hurdle) 1. SMINT _____P Hide 7-4 fev 2. Edan Heights ______W Nearaton 7-1
3. Soviet Lady_________ Gallagher 40-1
Also: 2-1 Decem Dividend (60h), 7-1 Balla
d'Aire (40h), 8-1 Henry Istand, 60-1 in Good
Order, Såvery, 66-1 Bing Shruhoon, Olebud
(5th), Our Fugley, Princess Rosheen, Tu Dear,
Whena's Albert, 100-1 The Boreen Stalker.
15 ram. 11/4, 9, 11/4, 9, 5, (Winner brown gelding by Ala Hounak out of Fabulous Evening,
trained by J Grifford at Finden for Food Reed by J Gifford at Findon for Food B lers Ltd). Tota: £280, £140, £150, £400, DF:

2.50: (2m 6f 10yos seling hidcap hurde)
1. THE MINDER ______M A Fizgerald 7-1
2. Weather Wise ______ N Williamson 7-1
3. Weepons Free ______ C Lieuwiyn 33-1

W Turner at Sherborne for Gongoffin), Tota: £3.20; £1.80, £2.80, DF: £18.10, £\$F: £14.81. (Mth), 9-1 Machiavel (6th), 15-1 Kimbers, 33-1 One in The Eye. 8 ren. 2, 2, 12, 2, 8, (Wimner bay gelding by Nordence out of Ninotonius, trained by K Curningham-Brown at Stockbridge for Bychence Racing), Total: \$2,60; \$1,70, \$180, \$200, \$1; \$1,710, \$180, \$200, \$1; \$1,710, \$180, \$199,98

rrage.
5 ran. 2. dist. dist. (Winner bay golding by Persian Heights out of Bellevar, truned by R Hoad at Lewes for Foray Racing And Nam). Teste 2370; \$120, \$370, DF; \$2180. CSF: \$50.75.

4.50: (3m 3f novice hundle) ASSC: 14-) Tax Altara, 40-1 Kilorah Bay (4th), 50-1 Midnight Mester. 6 ran. 4, 30, dist. (Winner gray gelding by Roselier out of Rossian, Irahed by M. Pti-man et Upper Lambourn for Miss Penda Wi-son 8. Mr M. S. Wilson). Totas: \$1.70; \$1.40, \$1.40, DF; \$1.70; \$5.55; \$3.23. oot: £25.90.

RESULTS MUSSELBURGH

M U S S E L B U R G H
Going: Good (Good to Soft in places)
2.00: 1. GOLDENGIRLINGHELLE (A
Maguire) 18-1; 2. Polo Venture 3-1; 3. Curroutes 12-1. 14 ren. 2-1 fav fron Mountain
6th) Nr. 174. (F Murphy, Middelarm). Tote:
013.01: 0350, 810, 8280, DF. 21790, CSF:
02-20. NR: Smile.
2.30: 1. SRIDLE PATH (F McGrath) 6-1; 2.
Richer 11-4 fav; 3. Railegio 5-1. 10 ren. 6,
376. (T Essiarby, Mathon). Tote: 1700; 02-20,
6.180, 0180, DF: 08-20, CSF: 97793, Tricast
583.10.
3.00: 1. CHARMING GIRL LI Chicarnel 6-4. 3.00: 1. CHARMING GIRL (J Osborne) 6-4 far, 2. Rossel 9-4; 3. Start The Castr 5-2 6 ran. 7, dist. (O Sherwood, Upper Lam-bourn. 10ter \$150; \$150, \$170, \$17, \$200, \$57: \$403.

CSF: \$408.

3.30: 1. WELL APPOINTED (Nr B Gitson)

8-1; 2. Westh Mountain 11-43. Easitem

Project 5-2 fen 7 ren. 3, 7. (6 Mechaggar,
Hawlick, Tote: £1000; £240, £171 DF;

C1150, CSF; £2584.

4.00: 1. CHTIZEN KANE (J Osborne) 9-1; 2.
Cartainaptichoprell 7-1; 3. Trisel 4-1 ft ten.

11 ren. 4-1 ft far Matessenti (501), 6, 5, (7).

Sherwood, Upper Lambourni, Tote: £190;

C150, C300, £230 DF; £2560 CSF; £5377.

Tricast: £26844.

4.30: 1. SALEM BEACH (C NcCorrect) 7-2

It far; 2. Meritins Dream 8-1; 3. Darbys

Gones 9-2. Fran. 7-2 ft far Qesert Brace (57),

7, 44. (Martin Todhumter, Unestabl, Tota;

C300; £170, £320, DF; £290, CSF; £2378.

5.00: 1. STOP THE GOSSIP (8 Storey) 2-1:

5.00: 1. STOP THE GOSSIP (B Store) 12-1: 2. Lobbingalong 7-1; 3. Enborne 5-2 low 9 ran. 6, 4, (B Martaggart, Hawkit), Tota-CTRO; CTRO, CTRO, CSB. OF: C2160. CSF: 58540 Piacepot: £28,00. Quadpot: £36,30. Piace &: £62,58. Piace 5: £18,08.

SOUTHWELL Going: Standard

1.40: 1. WITHOUT FREMDS (Deen McKe-own) 14-1: 2. Almacher 14-1: 3. Shontakse 10-1: 13 ran. 11-4 for Windshift (Sh); 1, 1/2. (Mrs N. Macauley, Motion Mowbray), Toler: 1850; 5450, 5420, 1180, DF: Cha?n. CSF: E17212. Tricast: £1928,34. NR: Reased. 2.16:1. MUTAHADETH (J. Farning) 12-1; 2, Cool Secret 8-1; 3. Shamolda 14-1. 14 ran. 4-1 fav Gain Line (6th), 1, 1/2. (D. Shase. Neserit, Start 21:140; 52:30, DF: 24430, CSF; 253:20. Tricest: 253736. 240: 1. ROBELLITA (P Goode) 5-1; 2. Ter-razzo 6-1; 3. Country Orehid 5-1 10 ran. 3-1 tw Copernicus (8th) 5, bd. (B Smart, Lambourn). Teles 1880; 2:10, 2:80, 2:50. Dr. 25:30. CSF: 25:30s. NR: Chellepin, No 3 Chellepin was withdrawn not under orders. Full 4 does not apply no market formed. 3.10: 1, QUEZON CITY (R Cochrane) 11-4 Say, 2. Mudlank 14-1; 3. Colertidge 12-1, 11 ran. 2%, nk. (Miss J Carnacho, Malton), Totak 5490; \$180, \$240, £550, DF: \$2450, CSF: 84023. Tricest: £36725.

3.40: 1. MAITEAMIA (J Curry) 11-1; 2. NBy Norman 12-1; 3. Octor 5-2 fax 12 ren. Ste-hd, 3" 4. (S Bowing, Mansfeld) Total 12:00; 2340, 2360, 2150 DF: £410, CSF: £12539. Tricast: £404.46. Tota Titlecte: £32 4.10: 1. INCH PERFECT (R Lappin) 33-1; 2, Future Prospect 6-1; 3, Brootune Line 4-1 16 ren, 3-1 (ev Scathabury, 1½, 2 (J.Het-herton, Maiton), Tote: 25380; 21080, 2170, 2240, DF: 582170, CSF: 627028 4.40: 1. SWIFT (K Falton) 5-1: 2. Linea-G 7-4 fax; 3. Mysterlum 16-1 11 ran. 2, 2 (M Polglaso, Newmerket). Tota: \$6.20; \$2.90.

5.10: 1. RIVER CAPTAIN (C Lowther) 8-1;-2. Approved Quality 6-1; 3. Karinata 25-1. 11 ran. 3-1 tav (fibernete (5th), 5. 1/L (D Murray Smith, Upper Lambourn), Tota; 2770; \$150, \$140, \$440, DF: \$2780, CSF.

\$4836. Tricast: \$1060.29.

£140, £420, DF; £580, CSF; £1283, Tricast; £12228.

Jackpot: Not won (pool of £19538141 carried forward to Exeter today). Piecepot: £3,18.60. Quadpot: £3460. Place 6: £1,74617. Place 5: £218.59.

FIRST SHOW

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	C	н	<u> </u>	5	Ţ	
Selector	103	4-1	94	_41	4-1	
Treasure Again	92	41	41	94	41	
True Fortane	5-1	32	11-2	7-1	6-1	
Pennyan't Prince	74	6-1	7-1	15-2	7-4	
Gigi Blench	8-1	8-1	7-1	7-4	8-1	
Kirmshella	B- <u>1</u>	7-1	741	15-5	8-1	
Simpson	11-1	11-1	8-1	11-1	10-1	
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Secret Edit	14-1	12-1	14-1	24	12-1	
Spring Meratino	n 14-1	14-1	12-1	14-1	14-1	
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Red Parade	33-1	31	33-1	33-1	33-1	
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CONTRACTOR LINES OF COMMUNICATION						





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建的书 (****)



Three years ago Super League rugby saw a false dawn in Paris but the latest new team show promise. By Dave Hadfield

AS GATESHEAD THUNDER defied the great, elemental forces of the North-east - rain, wind and Newcastle United - to nake an encouraging start to flated by free tickets and an life in Super League on Sunday, minds inevitably drifted back to ination. another night three years ago. Gateshead are the second new franchise to enter the competition. Enthusiasm for the way they seem to have many things right has to be tempered by memories of what happened to the first.

On the face of it, Paris St-Germain made an even better start than the Thunder. They were not merely competitive; they beat Sheffield Eagles 30-24 and did so at the Charlety Stadium in front of a crowd which, はなる特殊者 「異心をおいることには Inage at more than 17,000, was three times as many as Gateshead attracted to their inaugural fixhere. It proved a false dawn, hewever. Paris won only two _ more matches that season and, within two years, they were extinct and virtually unmourned, with crowds having slumped to a low of 500.

> It sounds like a bad omen for the Thunder, but there should not be too much read into it. The two events do have more · in common than locals speaking a strange language and the presence of Kath Hetherington, then a Sheffield and now a Gateshead director. Both -- involve winning over an alien audience for an unfamiliar sport, but there, Gateshead

hope, the similarities end. There is one immediate difference. Paris's crowds that first night and subsequently were ineven more free use of the imag-

"Everyone at Gateshead paid," said the Thunder's chief executive, Shane Richardson. Anything else would amount to the new club conning itself and, as a genuine attendance. 5,960 represents a decent base to build on.

The deck, after all, was heavily stacked against them, with a combination of live television, foul weather and Alan Shearer and Co strutting their stuff across the city. "All things considered, it was a very encouraging start," Richardson

The difference should be that at Gateshead, unlike Paris, a greater proportion of that opening night attendance will be back despite their new team's 24-14 defeat by Leeds.Unlike Paris, who had deepening contractual problems with their players, Gateshead will get better.

Judging by the way they played in the wet and in their first competitive game, they will provide compelling entertainment when they get a dry track to run on and the sun on

Like the Thunder, Paris eventually brought in large numbers of Australian players



Gateshead experiences the razzmatazz of Super League as Captain Thunder leads the cheers against Leeds on Sunday

for, quite simply, there is a surplus. Deon Bird is the common link between the two, returning from Adelaide to join his second European Super League club, but that is as far as the comparison goes.

The French-based side did not have players of the calibre of Kerrod Walters, Willie Peters or Brett Grogan and, as the season goes on, the difference in quality will become more apparent.

Paris were eventually re-

garded as cuckoos in the nest of their parent organisation, the Paris St-Germain football club. Gateshead's equivalent relationship is with their local council, whose energetic support for a project that puts the town on the national sporting map, is not in doubt. Paris were permanently broke; Gateshead announced their arrival as serious players with one of the biggest club sponsorship deals ever

tied up. The administration in Paris

was a mess - and did not get any better when Super League and Maurice Lindsay launched a "rescue" operation. As the picture developed, nobody was really sure who was in charge. At Gateshead, there is no debate about it; it is the creature. of Richardson and Hetherington, who between them have an expertise in the field that

underpins the whole dream. There were uplifting nights at the Charlety and a longerterm commitment to the idea

might by now have paid dividends. Their fireworks worked on opening night; Gateshead's did not, but that was the only real dampener on the proceedings. There are, of course, things

that need to be worked on. A ground announcer explaining play to newcomers only helps if he gets it right; the club's mascot, Captain Thunder, needs to return to his own planet in some distant galaxy for further

training.

But these are minor matters. What really counts is that Gateshead should build on a solid start, make progress towards their declared aim of fielding a British team and be given time to prove their worth to the game.

It all looked feasible on Sunday night. We might have said something similar after Paris's debut three years ago, but some vital lessons about what it takes to thrive in Super League have surely been learned since then.

Britain to fight S Africa cup bid

BY DAVE HADFIELD

GREAT BRITAIN was resisting a rival bid from South Africa to stage the 2000 World Cup when the game's International Federation began its meeting in Sydney today. The millennium tournament was awarded to Britain last year, but the South Africans will try to persuade the Federation to change its plans this week.

That move will be greeted with incredulity by the British representatives at the meeting, who still recall the embarrassment caused to the game by the cancellation of the planned World Nines in Johannesburg last month. Britain also regards any arguments over the World Cup as being too late.

"It's a done deal as far as we are concerned, but South Africa are welcome to make a bid for 2002," said the Rugby League's chief executive, Neil Tunnicliffe. He will also want to end any doubts over the Tri-Series against Australia and New Zealand this year. The Kiwis have expressed unease about that tournament and Britain could call their bluff by suggesting an Ashes series instead.

The Gateshead prop. Andrew Hick, has become the first player from the new club to be summoned to a disciplinary hearing, over an alleged trip in their inaugural game against Leeds.

The referees' director, Greg McCallum, warned coaches yesterday that lying-on in the tackle, which has crept back into the game this season, will not be tolerated.

Britain's leading referee, Russell Smith, has had to pull out of tonight's Varsity match at Richmond because he has flu. Another professional referee, Robert Connolly, takes over for a match in which Cambridge hope to continue their run of six wins over Oxford in their last seven meetings.

Huddersfield's Great Britain scrum-half, Bobbie Goulding, does not have a broken arm as had been feared.

Oxford ensure | Samaranch braced for vote league status

OXFORD UNIVERSITY warmed. up for today's Varsity Match with a 3-1 win against Isca. However, Saturday's game did little to grace the official opening of their water-based artificial pitch at Iffley Road - other than to almost certainly ensure their National League survival.

Cambridge, on the other - hand, saw their chance of reaching the National League flickering away by drawing with Crostyx in the Premier Holidays East Premier.

Indeed, it could have been se for the Light Blues but for an equalising goal from Roger Wilcock with the last touch of the match. The former Oxford Blue Adam Laird, on whom much of Cambridge's hopes will depend this afternoon in Milton Keynes, scored their opening goal.

In another eventful game in coming from Rob Stone and

BY BILL COLWILL

scored both Portsmouth's goals. A few minutes into the second half, the umpire, after awarding a penalty stroke, changed the decision into a 16-yard hit, which might have been costly for Wimbledon. With their programme complete they must now hang on for a week to await the result of Fareham's rearranged fixture at High Wycombe on Saturday.

Only a win for Fareham. held to a 1-1 draw at Woking on Saturday, will be enough to give them the title and a place in the national play-offs. Without their leading goalscorer, Jim Mosely, who broke his nose last week, Fareham struggled the South, leaders Wimbledon after Tom Miller's opening goal twice came from behind to beat in 24 seconds. Woking's equalis-City of Portsmouth, with the er came from a Mark Robinson equalising and winning goals penalty corner shot in the 52nd

David Alford, both scoring within a minute. Earlier Stuart Avery had

WITH THE International Olympic Committee president,

Juan Antonio Samaranch, facing a crucial confidence vote next week, the question is not whether he will win the motion but whether it will be by secret ballot or public acclamation.

With the world closely monitoring every move the IOC makes in the wake of its biggest corruption scandal, officials expect the committee will be criticised no matter which procedure is used to endorse

THE WELSH giant Derwyn

Jones is ready to turn his back

on his country to begin a new

career - in France. The 6ft

10in Cardiff second row is out

of contract at the Arms Park at

the end of the season and is

being trailed by a number of

clubs across the Channel, with

Bourgoin the favourites to sign

The lock, capped 19 times by

Wales, last played against Aus-

tralia in 1996. He said: "There

OLYMPIC GAMES

Samaranch. The 78-year-old Spaniard, who has faced calls for his resignation from critics outside the IOC, announced in January that he would out his leadership to a vote of confidence at a special general assembly in Switzerland on 17 to 18 March.

Samaranch has overwhelming support among IOC members for his continuation in office. The confidence mo-

RUGBY UNION

has been some interest from

clubs in France. It is early days

yet, but I am looking at my op-

tions and have been with

Cardiff a long time. I have to

look at what is best for me, but

it will be a huge wrench to leave.

tion with Cardiff and Welsh

Rugby Union this season the

club has allowed me to speak

to other clubs."

"However, with the situa-

tion, however, is not listed on the on a formula later this week.

Lake City bribery scandal. IOC members said that the confidence question is still being debated among the general membership and the lead-

Samaranch has been canmembers and is expected to set- election campaign.

Zealand hospital today for an

assessment of the spinal in-

Tanginoa was left uncon-

tackle and falling beneath sev-

eral players in Saturday's fix-

against Georgia.

the 10-point agenda for next Executive board member week's meeting, where the as- Jacques Rogge said members sembly will vote on reform pro- are divided into two camps: posals and expulsion of those who favour a secret balmembers involved in the Salt lot and those who prefer a round of applause or show of hands.

"What counts is not the system," he said. "What counts is whether [Samaranch] can have broad support, and I believe he will." Samaranch, elected as IOC president in 1980, has vassing the opinions of IOC never faced a contested re-

Jones is target for French clubs The Tongan centre, Pita Tonga yesterday that Tanginoa

> juries he suffered in last week-Vaiola. end's World Cup trial match Takau said he was optimistic about the player's recovery when he is taken to Auckland scious after taking a heavy Hospital.

that the extent of his injury

could not be determined at

Tanginoa plays for West Hartlepool in this country, but returned home for the trial match in which the hosts beat

Doctor 'Aisake Takau, of the Vaiola Hospital, told Radio Georgia 37-6. FORM VERDICT

found their scoring touch, are as short as 11-4 with Stanley but they will not face a side as weak as Everton again in the com-

9-2 for FA Cup IT IS a rare occurrence to find SPORTS BETTING

Manchester United at odds of 5-1 to win a six-runner race, yet Ladbrokes have the Premiership leaders at that price to win

Spurs attract at

the FA Cup after their failure to dispatch Chelsea at Old Trafford on Sunday. Barnsley, at 40-1, are the only team deemed less likely to lift the Cup. The extent of United's difficulties is emphasised by their at Wembley, so the 9-2 on offer

price of 9-4, with Coral, to triumph in Wednesday's replay at Stamford Bridge. The attractive bet there, given how closely matched the two sides are and their unwillingness to give anything away in defence, 9-4 with William Hill. With a semi-final against Ar-

senal looming for whoever progresses, the other side of the draw looks a more attractive proposition for finding the Cup vinners. Newcastle, having

BY JOHN COBB

erally on offer looks mean. Better to stick with the Cup specialists Tottenham, who must eliminate Barnsley at Oakwell in their postponed sixth-round tie and then Newcastle in the semi-final. Ladbrokes rate them a 3-1 chance to triumph

C H L S T Chelsea 5-4 5-4 11-8 6-4 6-5 Draw 7-4 5-4 2-1 11-5 11-5 may be the 90-minute draw at man that 9-4 7-4 7-4 6-4 15-8 Stantard Bridge, tomorrow

FA CUP 6TH ROUND REPLAY

with Stanley looks healthy.

To win the FA Cup							
	C	Ħ	Ł		7		
Azsensi	94	2-1	24	94	9-4		
Newcastle	4-1	41	41	11-1	3-1		
Chalses	41	9-2	9-2	9-2	9-2		
Distributi	7-2	41	3-7	92	4-1		
Man Utd	92	41	5-1	41	4-1		
Samsley	33-1	40-1	40-1	40-1	40-1		
CC UNI-				T	T		

SCOTTISH PREMIER

LEAGUE

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

SECOND DIVISION

SEDGEFIELD

2.00 Just Jake 2.30 Phar Echo 3.00 Castle Clear 3.30 The Snow Burn 4.00 Joe Jagger 4.30 Gus Cunningham 5.00 Caius INSPECTION: 7.45em

GOING: Soft

Light-hand, undutating course. Easy tences and long run-in.

Course is 'I'm SE of town near junction of A589 and A177. Bus service from Stockton station (Sm) or Durham station (12m).

ADMISSION: Paddock DS (OAPS ES): Course E3. Free all endo-Sures March 18. CAR PARK: free. FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

FIVE-YEAR STATISTICS

IN LEADING TRAINERS: Min M Revelop 84-252 (254%), G M Moons
19-114 (167%), B Elison 18-121 (149%), J H Johnson 18-125 (109%).

IL LEADING JOCKEYS: P Niven 44-175 (251%), G Lae 21-98
(214%), L Wyer 18-109 (147%), A Dobbin 15-162 (83%).

IF FAVOURITES: 222 wirs in 594 races (374%).

IL LONG DISTANCE TRAVELLERS: Peninsula Boy (230) & Puntars Ber (330) have been sent 302 miles.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Timbucktoo (4,00), River Douglas (430), Steelers Dream (430).

2.00 J WADE CONDITIONALS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (G) £2,000 2m 1f

FORM VERDICT

him.

hed Jake, racing off a 10b lower mark, has something in hand of four of these rivels on Newcastle running last week. He should make a bold ettempt, but may have to give best to TENNESSEE KING. who is thrown in on his old form, shaped well on his first outing to

2.30 EQUINAGE HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 3f 110yds

num weight: 10st. True handicap weight: Kinda Groovy 9st 6th. BETTING: 3-1 For Cathal, 4-1 Cypresa Avenue, King Pin, 5-1 Peninsula Boy, 7-1 Phar Echo, Pitaington, 14-1 Kinda Groovy FORM VERDICT

For Cathal looks the one to best on his latest second to Birkdale, but carrying a big weight under these conditions could leave him vuinerable and it could pay to take a chence on PILKINGTON at bigger odds. He looked a promising stayer in 1997, and shar a pipeher at Newcastie he could now be ready to come back and

3.00 FRANK SCOTTO MEMORIAL NOVICE CHASE (C) £8,000 added 2m 110yds

- 7 declared -BETTING: 8-11 Bamburgh Boy, 5-2 Fasser, 7-2 Castle Cleer, 33-1 others

FORM VERDICT BARNBURGH BOY has much the strongest credentials and will be extremely hard to beat. Fassan is the best option for the fore-

3.30 MCEWAN'S DURHAM NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (C) £15,000 3m 4f 6 0-14:3 THE SNOW BURN (24) (C) T lists 5 10 19. B Handing 8 7 03053U D'ARBLAY STREET (4) (CD) W Kemp 10 10 5 B Storey 8 -442FP MAJORITY MAJOR (11) (D) J Wisder 10 10 1 A S Smith

- a uncarrea -HETTING; 3-1 Sillara Stalkar, 4-1 Michar Muddypaws, The Snow Burn, 6-1 D'Arbhry Street, Sniper, 13-2 Partiers Ber, 5-1 Parlah, 25-1 Majorty Major FORM VERDICT D'ARBLAY STREET has shown enough lately to think that he is back in form, and off a low mark at his favourite track, he could prove just too strong for Stilliars Statiliar and Mistier Muddypawa. This is quite open, however, and The Snow Burn and Punters Ber are perfectly plausible winners too.

4.00 ROBIN & JOHN SIMPSON MEMORIAL HANDICAP CHASE (F) £5,000 2m 5f

Decent recent form is thin on the ground here so puriers should tread worth. COPPERHURST is a tentaine choice given her abject run lest thre but she should be effective in the conditions and, on her best form, is fairly treated deepte being out of the handicap.

Tanginoa, will be flown to a New had been partially paralysed but

4.30 LEVY BOARD 'NH' MAIDEN HURDLE (CLASS F) £2,250 added 3m 3f 110yds 1REDR GUS CURNENGHAM (21) Mrs M Reseley 7 to 5 Mr A Dempsey (3)
D40 HARMONY HILL (11) J Parise 7 to 5 Mr A Dempsey (3)
00000P OVER STATED (6) I Park 9 to 5 Mrs A Swinberk 7 to 5 Mr G Wilson (5)
0-0444 RIVER DOUGLAS (15) Mrs A Swinberk 7 to 5 Mr G Wilson (6)

— 8 declared — BETTING: 9-4 Nevermind Hey, 11-4 Gus Cincingham, 4-1 Steelers Dream, 5-1 River Douglas, 11-2 Tipe Country Don, 14-1 Harmony Hill, 33-1 others FORM VERDICT

RIVER DOUGLAS has a bit to find with Neventaind Hay on hurde form, but that could be misleading since he would have adhered a higher rating at Carlisle but for a blunder. He is on the upgrade.

5.00 ALPHAMERIC SOLUTIONS NOVICE HURDLE (E) £3,000 2m 5f 110yds

FORM VERDICT

CAILS and Scraptustic are the two to concentrate on, even if both have to prove their stamina. The form of Calus looks slightly more solid, so the is preferred.

petition and even the 4-1 gen-WEEKEND POOLS FORECAST

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP Leicester v Charlton

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION

SECOND DIVISION 22 Blackpool v Wrevham ... x 23 Bournemouth v Reading ... 1 24 Lincoln City v Chester field ... 2 25 Luton v Stoke ... x 26 Macclesfield v Colchester ... 2 7 Man City v Otcham ... 1 26 Milhvall v Wolsall ... x x 25 Mutwall v Worsall
29 Nots Councy v York
30 Wigan v Gillingham
31 Wycombe v Northampton
Pridays Bristol Rovers v Futham,
Stadday: Burnley v Preston.

32 Barnet v Cambridge Utd... 33 Brentford v Strewsbury ... 34 Brighton v Darlington 35 Cardiff v Torquay 36 Chester v Scunthorpe

Britain reaping reward for investment

BRITISH ATHLETICS, bankrupt 18 months ago, is moving towards next year's Sydney Olympics on a growing tide of achievement and investment.

Speaking after the best British performance at the World Indoor Championships since the event began in 1985, Max Jones, performance director for UK Athletics, revealed that the domestic sport will receive increased levels of National Lottery funding of between £18m and £20m for a six-year period finishing after the 2004

Olympics in Athens. The Lottery Sports Fund has accepted the sport's sixyear plan – applicable from October last year - which involves increasing the annual amount of funding for athletes from £2.4m to £3m.

Of that figure, the film currently given towards living exfor individual competitors will remain the ATHLETICS

BY MIKE ROWBOTTOM in Maebashi, Japan

crease in the amount to cover UK Athletics costs such as travel, small international meetings, health cover, physiotherapy and warm-weather

That total is likely to be supplemented over the next few years by additional funding for training bases within the recently announced National Academy network

In order to secure this fund-

ing. Jones and his colleagues have had to agree performance targets for a range of forthcoming events - for example. seven medals at this summer's outdoor World Championships in Seville, six at the Sydney Olympics, and eight four years later in Athens. The sport's case was greatly enhanced by last season's performances from British athletes, who re-

tles in Budapest.

There was no direct correlation," Jones said, "But I'm sure Budapest did a lot of good in a lot of areas. There were 9.75m British television viewers watching us on the last day. When we came back, the picture had changed for us..."

Many media observers, Jones added, had pointed out that last summer's success had come in a European year, and that winning at global level in the 1999 world indoor and outdoor championships would prove much harder. "They were right," Jones said. "But three golds and two bronzes in Maebashi has set us up well for the year ahead, in the same way as our success did in last year's

European indoors at Valencia." He accepted that there was a price to pay for funding that was so target-orientated. "It's pressure," he said. "You are only as good as your last running," Jones said. "Most mittedly after that other,

tained the European Cup and Games or championships. But superstars do nothing else in won a record nine European ti- I'd rather have pressure than the sport when they retire beno money. And if the Lottery cause they've got everything authorities are going to shove they need. I hope that Linford us f3m every year, they should is going to last the course and keep on coaching expect to get something back long term." Lottery money now supports Jones and a staff

> age groups within British ath-"We are all free to concentrate on getting the best out of British athletes," he said. "At world level, a difference of one per cent in preparation can make the difference between

someone winning gold or com-

of six other performance di-

rectors for specific events or

ing fourth." Jones also praised another influential feature of the British success, namely Linford Christie, who has coached Darren Campbell and now Jamie Baulch to major titles in the space of nine months. "It's obvious he's got a gift for coach-

"I would love to use him more within our set-up. It's sometimes a matter of pinning him down although he does sit on the Performance Athletic Services board.

"Linford has been there, done it and got the T-shirt. When you touch greatness like that it does rub off on other ath-

Ashia Hansen, who added the World Indoor triple jump title to those she had won at last year's European Indoor Championships and Commonwealth Games, was assisted in her preparations for Maebashi by the fact that her coach, Aston Moore, was able to work with her on a full-time basis thanks to Lottery funding. Moore was ing almost as good as his gift for in Maebashi with Hansen - ad-

unofficial patron of the sport, Sir Eddie Kulukımdis, had paid for his air fare.

"When Aston is with me at a competition it means I can relax and concentrate on my performance rather than having to worry about the technical aspects of my jumping." Hansen said. "Having to do all that for yourself is a big pres-

Jason Gardener, who broke Linford Christie's five-yearold European 60m record in finishing third behind the Americans Maurice Greene and Tim Harden, has also benefited from a Lottery grant which has allowed him to train

I have here," he said. The funding helped Gardener make the junior to achieving senior at a time when his career was stuttering. Three years ago he was

full-time in his native city of Ashia Hansen shows off her triple jump gold

"Without that I would not. favourite to take the European have been able to achieve what indoor 60m title in Stockholm but false started twice in the final. Last season he lost form transition from promising at the crucial time, failing to qualify for the European Championships, where two other young sprinting talents. Darren

Campbell and Dwain Chambers, made a name for themselves with gold and silver

medals respectively. Now Gardener has put himself back in the frame as Britain looks forward to Seville with justified confidence.

Irvine the maverick lands big knockout

David Tremayne on the Irishman who let his driving do the talking with his first F1 win in Melbourne

HE WAS the enfunt terrible of water with Senna in that Japan-Formula One. The man whose debut, at Suzuka in 1993, passed into legend afterwards following a punch-up with the late Avrton Senna. Two races later. at the start of the troubled 1994 season, he was banned for three races after triggering a four-car accident in the Brazilian Grand Prix at Interlagos.

But on Sunday Edmund Irvine, the 33-year-old from Bangor, earned the respect of victory,

Ever since he joined Ferrari at the start of the 1996 season, as partner to Michael Schumacher, Irvine has played the pragmatist. He knows that he lacks his illustrious partner's sheer pace and panache, and he has made no bones about being prepared to ride shotgun for him whenever the occasion has demanded. Many of his fellow drivers, some of them doubtless jealous of his Ferrari drive and the significant remuneration it commands, have written him off as a journevman who lacks ambition, and it has pleased Irvine to let them think what they want. Insouciance, after all, has long been his trademark. It was what got him into hot

ese Grand Prix six years ago and thrust him into the spotlight. In difficult conditions, Irvine was fighting for fifth place with Damon Hill when Senna came up to lap him. But when Irvine felt Senna was holding him up, he had no qualms about re-passing him.

Eventually Senna overtook for good, but he was well stoked up as he strode down to the Jordan office afterwards. Senna his peers with a commanding demanded to know how Irvine ared to race when he was being lapped, and what he thought he was doing, whereupon Irvine lit his fuse by informing him that he had repassed him because he, Senna, wasn't driving fast enough.

Irvine was sitting on the table at the time, drawling in a manner that made his disrespect for Senna all too evident, and the deliberate provocation proved too much for the Brazilian, who swung a punch. As Senna was hustled away, the Ulsterman lost no time communicating to the world that he couldn't care less. "It wasn't even a good punch," he said.

When he was summoned to Paris in the aftermath of the Brazilian incident which sent



Champagne moment: Ferrari's Eddie Irvine soaks up Formula One success for the first time in the Australian Grand Prix at Melbourne on Sunday

same take-it-or-leave-it attitude helped Irvine to a three-race ban instead of the one-race exclusion that had initially been levied, but secretly Bernie Ecclestone, the

Formula One impresario, liked the maverick's style. It is what has made Irvine so frequently misunderstood. He

lives life on his own terms, and

rel-rolling over his Jordan, the does not care if others cannot cause he had never met a jourcope with it. In an era of political correctness, he has a commendable penchant for straight talking. Shortly before he joined Ferrari, he told a press conference in front of an Italian press famed for making life hell for Ferrari drivers that he wasn't bothered what any jour-

nalist who knew anything about motor racing. Those same writ-ers who had instantly begun for Ferrari. sharpening their pens that day were among the first to offer congratulations on Sunday.

Eighty-two races into the Formula One career which his father Ed's love of cars had ininalist wrote about him, betially inspired, Irvine kept and today it felt good, just a lit-

things in the family as he was embraced in parc ferme by his sister Sonia, who also works

"Right from Friday I was saying how good the car felt, al-though I couldn't understand why it was slow," Irvine said. "On Saturday, again it felt good even though we weren't quick,

tle bit unstable, the way it changed direction being a bit sharp. But actually the fundamental balance was fantastic. This is the best car I have ever

driven, to be sure." Like its driver, good enough just as McLaren seemed

of a good start to its world championship campaign. Even if he never wins another race Irvine will sayour this one. And so will Ed Sur and his wife. Kathleen, who so often follow their outspoken son around to pick up the pieces for Ferrari the world but this time watched with pride from their home poised to deliver a hammer near Bangor as he finally blow to the Italian team's hopes delivered the goods in style.

South Africa fear Germans' Cup bid Zemun players attack

are likely to beat them and England in the race to host the 2006 World Cup finals unless the African countries cut their prospective candidates down from five to one.

The chairman of the South Africa World Cup bid committee, Irvin Khoza, believes Germany will definitely secure the backing of the majority of available votes in Europe. He added that South Africa are not even guaranteed the four African votes because Egypt, Ghana, Morocco and Nigeria also want

never hosted the event, and the Fifa president, Sepp Blatter, believes the continent deserves a chance if it meets stringent re-

South Africa have also rejected a plea from the German Interior Minister, Otto Schily, to withdraw from the 2006 race in return for German support in a 2010 bid. "Europe wants to determine when they are ready and also when we are ready. They are not entitled to decide

in Nigeria and Ghana at the kend, hoping to persuade the countries to withdraw.

Morocco, unsuccessful bidders for the 1994 and 1998 finals, are considered the biggest rival to South Africa, while England and Brazil complete the line-up seeking to host the 2006 finals. The winning bid will be announced in a year's time.

Pierluigi Casiraghi, the Chelsea £5.4m striker who injured a knee in November, does not expect to be fit for the start when we are ready," said the of next season but hopes to play

Danny Jordaan. He held talks year Still on crutches, he said: from Scotland in the late "I am a little bit better. I'm working hard to come back and play, but it's very difficult because the injury was very bad. Every morning and every afternoon I

am working." Referees in the Football League will abandon the innovation which saw them wearing unusual coloured shirts such as purple or yellow and revert to black kit next season.

Leeds United have been accused of "robbery" by Soccer Australia after signing teenager Jamie McMaster, to stage the finals. Africa has South Africa bid chief executive, again before the end of the whose parents emigrated

The Soccer Australia National Youth Coach, Les Scheinflug, said: "It's a bloody disgrace. These English clubs are like robbers, stealing our best young players, then telling them the only way they will be signed is if they turn their back on Australia and play for England, Scotland or whoever."

Rugby's 10-yard advancement rule to punish dissent could be adopted by Fifa within two years after a successful pilot scheme in Jersey.

PAUL ALCOCK, the referee shoved to the ground by Paolo Di Canio eartier this season, got off lightly compared to Dragan Trifkovic, who took charge of this weekend's Yugoslav First Division match between Red Star Belgrade and their city rivals, Zemun.

YUGOSŁAVIA

The match was abandoned early in the second half after Trifkovic was attacked by Zemun players. The referee had just sent off a Zemun player, Zoran Miljkovic, when he was set upon by the miscreant's team-mates.

Surrounded by Zemun players aiming punches at him, Trifkovic called off the game and ran for cover Red Star were leading 2-1 at the time and have subsequently been awarded a 3-0 win.

The perpetrators are expected to be punished today by the Yugoslav Football Federation, which is also planning for this month's high-profile European Championship qualifier against Yugoslavia's neighbours and former war-time



referee after red card

AROUND THE WORLD EDITED BY RUPERT METCALF

The fixture in Belgrade on 27 March will be the first football match between the two national sides since Croatia gained independence from Yugoslavia in 1991, although Partizan Belgrade did play Croatia Zagreb in a European Cup tie

from both Euro 2000 qualifiers. Only a small delegation of officials and media will be travelling with the Croatian team to

Belgrade. retary, said.

JOHN TOSHACK was celebrating the first win of his second spell as Real Madrid's coach after Raul's last-minute goal earned a 3-2 success over Real Zaragoza on Sunday but the Welshman was not ser

SPAIN

happy yesterday. The news from the treatment room at the Bernabeu stadium was not good. The Brazilian striker Savio, who had to go off after half an hour of the Zaragoza game, has torn a thigh muscle and will be out of action for three weeks.

Savio will miss next week's second leg of the European Cup quarter-final against Dynamo Kiev. After a 1-1 draw in Madrid last week, Real have to score at least once in Ukraine if they are to progress.

Predrag Mijatovic, who scored the holders' goal against Dynamo last week, is also doubtful for the return with a knee injury. To add to Toshack's worries, the experienced defenders Fernando Hierro and Manuel Sanchis both missed Sunday's game due to

Amoruso wins battle with Rangers' fans

fellow Italian defender Lorenform stems from his desire to media and retained Amoruso as vious season through injury, so prove wrong his critics among the Rangers fans. Earlier this season, whenever Amoruso opted to shoot from distance. the Ihrox faithful behind the goal would first take cover then offer the Rangers skipper a hostile verdict on his efforts.

It reached the stage in early November that Amoruso was threatening to quit the club, such was his concern, but the

cast, ignored the advice both of ed to do his best for Rangers do. He is a winner - and wants his team's supporters and the after missing much of the pre-

Rangers were being held 1-1 by an impressive Falkirk in the Scottish Cup at Ibrox on Sunday when Amoruso strode forward with purpose, set his sights and let fly from fully 35 yards for a stunning winning goal.

Porrini said: "There was a

time when Lorenzo took a lot of criticism and I felt very sorry for so he has produced some mag-mestic treble with the prospect to fall in line with the rest of Eu-

when he was jeered at Ibrox it was a terrible time for him.

"Lorenzo really wanted to be a success and I can tell you I know how much it means to him to be Rangers captain. He took the abuse, although it hurt, because he felt the fans were entitled to their opinion.

to win for the fans."

stay, stressing "I don't think it is a problem now" when asked about a future which at last looks bright. Rangers have now gone 15

matches unbeaten, with Sunday's victory an eighth successive win. They have already lifted the Scottish League Cup "In the last three months or and are primed for a rare dohim because some of it was per- nificent performances for us of Hampden Park launching its rope, where it's the norm."

SERGIO PORRINI reckons his Rangers manager, Dick Advo- sonal and very hurtful. He want- and shown people what he can new era with an Old Firm Scottish Cup final.

In contrast, with Hibernian Amoruso has now vowed to having already virtually secured the First Division title. Falkirk now have little to play for, a fact which infuriates their manager, Alex Totten, a firm advocate of a 16-team top

Totten said: "For the sake of Scottish football that's the road we should go down, more teams in the Premier League

two years ago. Away fans will be banned

"We decided to do everything we could to eliminate all tensions off the pitch," Branko Bulatovic, the Yugoslav Football Federation's general sec-

niggling injuries.

THE INDEPENDENT
Tuesday 9 March 1999

Jones

misses

golden

chance

SNOOKER

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, whose mood swings are as unpredictable as his snooker, managed to book a place in the last 16 of the China International at the JC Mandarin Hotel, here

yesterday, However, O'Sullivan

hardly inspired confidence after

progressing with a 5-3 victory

"I'm not really into it to be

honest," said the twice UK

champion. "I'm just going

through the motions like I've

from two events earlier this sea-

son suffering from mental and

physical exhaustion, added: "I don't really care how I get on.

Runs of 94 and 73 enabled

O'Sullivan to build a 2-1 lead, but

his frustration boiled over after

missing a straightforward pink

with frame four still in the bal-

ance. With four reds still on the

table, and ample opportunity to

recover, O'Sullivan decided to

concede the frame even though

session interval and when the

next two frames were shared.

Jones, the English world No 44.

had the chance to claim one of

the biggest scalps of his career.

But Jones put simple reds into

the jaws of the pocket when in

prime position in each of the fol-

lowing two frames and both

O'Sullivan stepped in with

high speed runs of 55 and 81 to

avoid a repeat of his first round

exit at the hands of Darren

Morgan at last week's Thailand

Masters in Bangkok. He moves

forward to meet James Wat-

Malta's Tony Drago became

the first member of the game's

élite top 16 to be eliminated

when he was crushed 5-0 by

Paul Davies in only 76 minutes.

found the going tough as

Davies sailed through to meet

either fellow Welshman Do-

minic Dale or, more likely, Mark Williams, who arrived in Shanghai fresh from winning the

Drago, the world No 10,

tana or Billy Snaddon.

mistakes proved costly:

That made it 2-2 at the mid-

he trailed only 49-22.

over Bradley Jones.

been doing all scason." O'Sullivan, who withdrew

What will be, will be.'

By Eric Weir

in Shanghai

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la tar transfer **Series** of the **網 禁** 技术 **1000**8 2741 Be also participated in

Marie Marie itschko of the Ukraine. the free

tmen Holyfield aims for an early knockout

TWO DAYS before his first win over Mike Tyson, Evander Holyfield quietly told his trainer Don Turner that he would win. Most people expected Tyson to trounce him. Now Holyfield has let the world know that Lennox Lewis faces an early exit from the biggest fight of his career.

Three rounds, Holyfield has A The World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion obviously believes it will as effective to play on Lewis's mind as it will be to punish his body in Saturday's unification fight at a sell-out Madison Square Garden.

"I've never heard him predict like this," said Turner. "He says Lewis will be beaten in three, and I look in his face and I see a man who is supremely confident in what he can do. For the last two weeks he has made statements which has shown me he can climb insurmountable mountains.

"Joe Frazier, Ezzard Charles and Roberto Duran had the same approach. Evander is in the, the whole camp is in tune. I've been around 13 world champions and this guy is unbelievable.

Lewis's trainer, Emanuel Steward, sees mind games being as important as muscle power. Steward believes Lewis analyses things too much. "Nobody will know what is going on in Lewis's mind on the night of the fight," he confessed.

"So I'm not sure whether he vill immediately jump on Holyfield or if the fight will be more of a chess match.

"But Lennox is craving for

By DAVID FIELD in New York

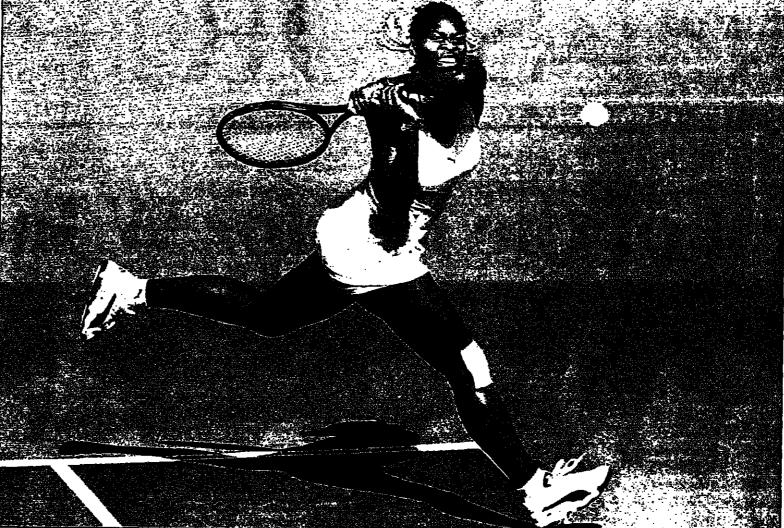
there's no doubt this is going to be the last great heavyweight fight for a long time. Apart from Lennox and Evander, there's nobody else out there."

A lot is being made of Lewis's suspect stamina. If he comes into the fight closer to 18 stone than 17, it could be a problem. Some believe Lewis is too big and in his last fight, against Zeljko Mavrovic last September there were times when the World Boxing Council champion looked tired.

"It's all psychological," added Turner. "I think Lennox will fight the fight of his life, and that is what we are preparing for him to do. Evander doesn't have to fight one way. But it would be easier to beat Lewis by fighting on the inside. Why should he stand on the outside when Lewis's leverage is at its maximum?

Evander has said Lewis had lumberjack power. I've never seen him chop down a tree, that's just Evander's analogy. The ability to counterpunch like Evander does takes a lot more savvy and it's one of the most important ingredients of a great fighter. If Lewis comes in swinging the theory would be to punch with him. If Lewis misses, a counter-punch will do the job as well.

"I saw Oliver McCall knock Lewis down and I'm sure he's thinking about that. He's a big guy; I've seen him staggered by Shannon Briggs, but any heavythe recognition he has never weight can be staggered. If had and I expect him to explode. Lewis rises to the occasion, I I can't see this fight going more think Holyfield will rise higher."



Serena Williams hits a backhand return during her 6-4, 6-2 victory over Lindsay Davenport in the Evert Cup at Indian Wells

Vaughan savours win

ENGLAND A completed their winter tour of Southern Africa unbeaten yesterday, wrapping up their programme by completing a 46-run victory against the President's XI in Cape Town.

England A, captained by Michael Vaughan, had to be pa-tient as the President's XI opener, Martin van Jaarsveld, led his side's defiance with 147, but the bowlers did what was asked of them with Steve Harmison taking 4 for 79 and Dean Cosker 3 for 87 to steer them to victory. The floodlights had to be

switched on to ensure a prompt

start ona breezy, overcast fifth and final day. Thirteen overs passed before a batsman made the semblance of a mistake when Finley Brooker flicked Graeme Swann to Darren Maddy at midwicket for 56. Even that did not begin the wholesale collapse that might have been expected and it was another 32 overs before the

CRICKET England A 350 & 288 President's XI 199 & 393

England A win by 46 runs

The new ball had come and gone and, with van Jaarsveld and Derek Crookes compiling a substantial partnership, the score reached 262 for 4 just after the interval and there was a remote possibility of a South

African win. Van Jaarsveld had reached an eight-hour hundred with a straight driven six off Cosker, but then Crookes hooked Harmison to Matt Windows at long leg for 37. That brought in Justin Kemp, a well-organised all-rounder who was difficult to dislodge, but wickets fell at the other end. Van Jaarsveld driving Cosker to Andrew Flintoff mid-off and Lulama Masikazana gave Windows another catch, this time at short

Mark Ahrahams stayed for 14 overs for his 20 before Vikram Solanki held on to a fast-travelling edge off Harmison. The coup de grace was delivered when Smith went back to a ball from Cosker that hit his pad

ENGLAND A - First Innings: 350 (D L Maddy 135, A Plintoff 70) **PRESEDENT'S XI 199** (C C Bradfield 61, D N Crookes 52).

right in front for 15 and

English celebrations.

5 Abrahams c Solankii b Harmison D H Townsend c Read b Thomas. G J Smith Ibw b Cosker

Bad light forces early end to Test

THE ASIAN Test Championship match between Pakistan and Sri Lanka in Lahore ended in a draw after bad weather forced an early end to the fifth day's play. Sri Lanka, chasing a tar-Vauighan could fianlly lead the get of 385, were 165 for 2 when rain and poor light forced play to be called off soon after tea.

Both Pakistan and Sri Lanka had already qualified for the final of the inaugural championship, to be played in Dhaka from 12 to 16 March.

The Pakistan captain, Wasim Akram, took a hat-trick in Sri Lanka's first innings while the opener Wajahatullah Wasti hit centuries in each innings. Sri Lanka's Russel Arnold followed his first innings maiden Test century with an unbeaten 56.

The Pakistan Cricket Board and Aamir Sohail traded accusations vesterday after the former Test captain was not spokesmansaid

Pakistan 398 & 314 Sri Lanka 328 & 165-2 Match drawn

named in the squad of 19 for the World Cup in May and June. Aamir and fellow batsman Salim Malik were not included because of poor form. Aamir, who has accused some teammates of match-fixing in an ongoing Pakistani judicial inquiry, said he was left out of the

allegations. "I am being penalised for my efforts to root out corruption in Pakistan cricket," he said.

souad not because of poor form

but because of the corruption

A board spokesman denied the charge. The statement is totally false and an attempt to settle a score with Pakistan Cricket Board for his omission from the team," the board

> Thailand Masters title. Michael Holt, a promising 20year-old from Nottingham, marked his debut in an overseas tournament by setting an early target for the £2,500 highest break award.

Holt fired home a 140 total clearance during his 5-1 victory over Yang Ji Ann in the wild-card play-off round, but Yorkshireman Peter Lines found local cueman Pang Wei Guo too hot to handle. Wei Guo underlined and the American Lance Arm- his potential with contributions of 63, 42, 104, 50 and 79 on the way to a high quality 5-1 success.

Whitaker's Hickstead winner dies Tchmil on song in the rain

THE GERMAN-BRED Gammon, with whom John Whitaker won last year's Peugeot British BY GENEVIEVE MURPHY Jumping Derby at Hickstead, has been put down at the age of 22. The gelding, who retired from show jumping in December had been moved to Liverpool Veterinary Hospital but he had failed to respond to treat-

ment for a torn rectum. Whitaker acquired the dark Germany just six months later

EQUESTRIANISM

brown gelding at the end of 1986 through the German rider and horse dealer, Axel Wockener, who once (unintentionally) rode down the 10ft 6in face of Hickstead's Derby Bank backwards. Gammon returned to

to win a big class at the 1987 Aachen Horse Show. Owned by Whitaker's father-

in-law, Malcolm Barr, Gammon won a total of £570,653. His best grand prix victories were achieved at Grenoble (1988), Chaudiontaine (1989), Calgary (1992) and Arnhem (1993) but it was his derby win at Hickstead last August that remains the most memorable.

At the time Whitaker's daughter, Louise, was Gammon's regular rider. It was only a few days before the contest that John decided to give the old horse one last chance of improving on his three second places in the British Jumping Derby. This time Gammon won in a jump-off against Ireland's Capt John Ledingham on

ICE HOCKEY

Kilhaha.

ANDREI TCHMIL, the Belgian CYCLING

veteran, yesterday took the lead of the Paris to Nice race when he overcame bad weather and the Dutch team Rabobank to win the opening stage. Tchmil, 36, outsprinted the Swiss Markus Zberg and the Dutchman Leon Van Bon. second and third respectively.

SPORTING DIGEST

The Russian-born Tchmil, winner of the notoriously diffi-

cult Paris to Roubaix in 1994 and fifth in Sunday's prologue, said he felt at home on the rain-Nangis to Sens. He gained a twosecond overall advantage over the Australian Stuart O'Grady.

Fourteen riders, including Tchmil, O'Grady, the Belgian Axel Merckx and six members the line.

away with 30km remaining. Last year's winner and the

race favourite. Frank Vandenbroucke, tried hard to join them lashed 184.7-kilometre run from but the Belgian suffered a puncture and finished two minutes behind

Richard Virenque, of France, strong fell heavily 55km from

BASKETBALL BUDWEISER LEAGUE A Chester Gants
Studied Sharks
Thames Valley Tigers
Derby Storm
London Rowers

Newcasite Eagles 31 17 14 34
Grer London Leopards 28 15 13 30
Edinburgh Rocks 29 9 20 18
Milton Keynes Lions 31 9 22 18
Chester Riders 29 7 22 14
Worthing Bears 29 7 22 14
Worthing Bears 31 4 27 8
NBBA: Sacsarday: Ceveland 97 Golden State
180: Ortstade 87 Detroit 82: San Antonio 114
LA Clippers 85: Sacramento 111 Phoenis 99:
Houston 107 Wancouver 92: Sumday: Indiana
BS Manni 72: New York 97 New Jersey 86;
Washingron 103 Philadelphia 95 OT, Toronto 105 Boston 92: LA Lakers 97 Utah 89: San
Antonio 106 Deriver 96; Sacramento 94 Dallas 89;

BOWLS

World Boxing Organisation heavy-weight champion Herbie Hide of Britain has been ordered to diend his title against challenger Vitaly KI-

CRICKET The New Zealand captain. Stephen Fleming, has been recalled to face South Africa in the second Test be-

south Affica in the second rest de-ginning at LancaSter Park on Thurs-day – if he can prove his fitness. NEW ZEALAND SOURD: M J Home. B A Young. R G Twose. N J Aste, S P Fleming (G R Seead on standby). C Z Harris, A C Parore. DL Vetroft. D J Nash. S B O'Connor, S B Doug. G I Allort. Nottinghamshire have decided not to sign Zimbabwean leg-spinner Paul Strang for this summer and are seek-England bowler Alan Mullally has been rested for Lelcestershire's pre-season triangular tournament in Sri Lanka. But fellow England win-ter tourist Vince Wells will be joining the champions' party for the matches against Srl Lanka A and Sri Lanka B – which begin on 18 March – before returning to join the England party on 28 March .

The former Yorkshire captain, Ron-

FOOTBALL

Norwich v Port Vale (7.45)
Oxford Urd v Huddersheld (7.45)
Portsmouth v Sheffleld Urd (7.45)
Stockport v Swindon (7.45)
Trannere v Birmingham (7.45)
Wolverhampton v Crewe (7.45)

SECOND DIVISION
Bournemouth v Bristol Rovers (7.45)....
Burnley v Manchester City (7.45)
Colchester v Oldham (7.45)

THIRD PIVISION

Hailings Harilegool v Leyron Orient Marsheld v Exeter (7.45) Phymouth v Torquay (7.45) Shrewsbury v Rotherham (7.45) Shrewsbury v Rotherham (7.45)

Chettenham v Hereford (7.45) Doncaster v Northwich (7.45) Hayes v Forest Green (7.45)....

Lincoin City v Wresham (7.45) ... Luton v Pulham (7.45) ... Luton v Pulham (7.45) ... Macclesfield v Gillingham (7.45) ... Norts County v Wycombe (7.45) York v Blackpool (7.45) ...

Barnet v Carlisle (7.45) ...

ıkch (7.45)...

7.30 unless stated FA CARLING PREMIER

Bolton v Barnsley (8.0) Bradford v Sunderland (7.45).

Bristol City v Bury (7.45) Crystal Palace v Ipswich (7.4 Grimsby v OPR (7.45) Norwich v Port Vale (7.45)...

nie Burnett, has died aged 80. He was appointed skipper in 1958 and led them to the County Champiled them to the County Championship the following year.

TOUR MATCH (Third day of three) Lincoln: South Africa 403-6 dec and 232-6 dec (i) N Rhodes 106no). New Zealand X 276-9 dec and 219-8. Match drawn.

SUPERSPORT SERIES FINAL (Fifth day of thee) East Lendont Western Province 302 (E O Simons 75, A C Dewson 143: Theraferson 4-82) and 249 (H D Ackentian 98not V C Drakes
Border 191 (S C Pope 61) and 197. Western Province bt Border by 163 runs.

ASIAN TEST CHAMPHONSHIP (Labore):

Fifth day: Pokiston won the toss
PRUSSIAN — First Busings 398 (Walahardullah Wasid 133. Yousuf Youhana 83, kman Nazir 64. D D Wickramasinghe

ishatulish Wasti 121no, Amdi e-SRI LANKA - Second lunings (Overnigh:: 60-0)

Kettering v Famborough (7.45) Kingstonian v Kidderminster (7.45)

Kingstonian v Kidderminster (7.45) Rushden v Stevenage (7.45)...... SCOTTISH LEAGUE THURD DIVISION

Ross County v Brechin

PA UMBRO TROPHY Fifth-round replay: Southport v Woking (7.45).

RYMAN LEAGUE Premier District: Carshalton v Aylesbury (7.45); Enfield v Basingstoke: Gravesend v Hendon: Hampton
v Harrow Borough; Skough v Aldershot
(7.45). First District: Berdramsted v Ox-

y Harrow Borough; Skugn v Austract
(7.45). First Dhissione: Berkhamsted v Oxford City; Leyton Pennant v Leatherhead;
Staines v Croydon; Wembley v Chertsey.
Whyteleafe v Bognor Regis; Worthing v Yeading. Second Dhission: Abingdon Town v Hemel Hempetsed: Edgware Nown v Harlow; Hungerford v Wivennoe; Tooting & Mitchan v Hertford; Windsor & Eton v Bracineli; Wolkingham v Northwood, Taitrd Dhission: Camberley Town v Crydon Athletic; East Thurrock v Tilbury; Egham v Wingate & Finchley; Epsom & Evell v Clapton; Ford tut v Kingabury; Hornchurch v Lewes, Isthmilan League Cap third round: Chesham v Bromley, Foarth round: Boreham Wood v Marlow; Maidenhead Urd v Sutton Urd. Plana Cap fourth round: Dulwich Hamlet v Wealdstone; Hitchin v Purfleet.
UniteOND LEAGUE Premier Dhission:

Stone: Hitchin v Purineet.
UNHBOND LEAGUE Premier Division:
Altrincham v Runcorn; Colwyn Bay v
Hyde Urd; Leigh RMI v Guissiey. President's Cup semi-final first leg: Droylsden v Stalybridge (7.45). Pirst Division:
Eastwood Town v Lincoln Utd. Unliftlia
First Division Cup semi-final first leg:
Radellife Borough v Ashron, Utd.

BERNETERS LEAGUE Despire Film.

Radellife Borough v Ashron. Urd.

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Pramier Division: Dorchester v Burton Albron (7.45);
Gloucester City v Merthyr; Grantham v
Hastings (7.45); King's Lynn v Bath City
(7.45). Midiland Divisions Moor Green v
Clevedon; Redditch v Weston-Super-Mare.
Southers Division: Ashrond v Darrford;
Raddock v Margner; Bashlay v Wilmey.

Baldock v Margace: Bashley v Witney.

Dumbarcon v Albion...... Ross County v Brechin

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division Actanatic Division

Saturdays N Vistanders 3 Philadelphia 3: Ismpa Bay 6 Montreal 1: Ortawa 3: Toronto 1:
Washington 4 Edmonton 3: Carolina 2 Florida 2: Chicago 4 San Jose 0: Catgary 4 Los Angales 1. Sandays New Jersey 4 NY Istanders
2: NY Rangers 3 Boston 1: Colorado 3 Pittsburgh 1: Dallas 4 St. Loufs 3. Philadelphia 1

Buffalo 1: Anaheim 3 Detroit 1: Phoenix 4

Nashville 3: Chicago 2 Vancouver 2.

W L T Pes GF GA

New Jersey 35 21 8 78 191 161

Philadelphia 30 19 15 75 192 150

Phitsburgh 32 21 9 73 194 172

NY Rangers 27 28 8 62 178 175

NY Islanders 19 38 8 46 152 197

TODAY'S FIXTURES League Cup fourth round: Cambridge City v St Leonards.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND AL-LIANCE: Pelsalt Villa v Barwell; Pershore v Kings Norton; Willenhall v Chasetown. Industrial Reminds League Cup send-final first ker West Midlands Police v Stapenhill, Invitation Cup third round; Oldbury v Atherstone.

NORTH WESTERN TRAINS LEAGUE

NORTH WESTERN TRUINS LEAGUE First Divisions Atherton LR v Ramsbot-tom; Vauchall GM v Salfort/Glossop North End v St Helens; Leek CSOB v Cheadle. Floodlit: Trophy third round: Atherton Collieries v Clitheroe. Semi-final second leg: Curzon Ashton v Kidsgrove. UHLSPORT UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE Premier Division: Backstone

18 37 9 45 142 198

Morthmest Dhvision

W L T Pts GF GA

32 24 8 72 177 159

25 29 10 60 178 168

23 30 10 56 165 178

19 35 10 48 154 200

Pacific Division

W LT PesGF GA

40 12 10 90 181 125

31 22 10 72 157 149

30 25 9 69 172 154

22 28 14 58 141 152

23 36 5 51 145 172

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE Premiler Division: Faversham v Deal; Green wich Borough v VCD Athletic; Sheppey Hythe; Tumbridge Wells v Beckenham. LEAGUE OF WALES: Afan Lido v Barry Town: Caersws v TNS Llansantfraid; Connah's Quay v Bangor City. COUNTY DIRECT LEAGUE Premier Division: Bridport v Tiverton: Mangotsfield v Keynsham; Old Down v Caine.
THE TIMES FA YOUTH CUP First round: Aston Villa v Watford. NORTHERN COUNTES EAST LEAGUE
Premier Division: Staton v Pontefract
Cols; Liversedge v Eccleshill. League
Cup third-round replay: Garforth v
Thackley, Fourth round: Arnold v North
Fernby; Selby v Ossett Town.

> RUGBY LEAGUE NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP Hull Kingston Rovers v Oldham (7.30). PROGRAM PLANNING PROFES-SIONALS UNIVERSITY MATCH: Cambridge University v Oxford University (7.30) (at Athletic Ground, Richmond).

PONTINS LEAGUE Premier Division

JEWSON WESSEK LEAGUE First Di-vision: Bernerton Heath Hari v Newbury: Wimborne v Downton. League Cup Semi-fixed first Leg: Lymington & New Millson & New Millson & New RUGBY UNION JEWSON EASTERN LEAGUE Premier Division: Ely v Warboys: Harwich & Parkeston v Woodbridge: Histon v Diss; Soham v Felbistowe Port & Town; Wrox-ham v Lowestoft. WELSH NATIONAL LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION

Ebbw Vale v Aberavon (7.0)

Lianelli v Bridgend (7.0)

PIRST DIVISION: Cross Keys v Pontypool ARNOTT INSURANCE NORTHERN LEAGUE First Division: Marpeth v Consett: Dunston Federation v Chester-le-Street.

AIB LEAGUE Second Division: Bally-nahinch v Malone (7.0). CLUB MATCH: Sale v Scottish Districts

HOCKEY UNIVERSITY MATCH: Oxford University Cambridge University (2.30) Women's Varsity Match (4.30): Old Blues Match (10.30); Schools Game: Stowe v Fram-

OTHER SPORTS UNILET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE TABLE TENNIS: English Open (Great

RUGBY UNION GOLF CHELTENHUM & GLOUCESTER CUP, semi-final drawn Bedford v Newcastle, Glouces-ter v Sale, Ties to be played between 17 and 24 March 1999. The European Tour is to stage a new tournament in Galway in August - the first staged under a new structure in-

first staged under a new structure in-corporating both the European Tour and Challenge Tour. The Ballymore Properties West of Ireland Golf Clas-sic will be played at Gahway Bay Golf and Country Club from 12 to 15 Au-gust with an equal number of golfers from the two Tours eligible to enter. poral-review over (US unless start): 275 5 Elidington (Aus) 64. 276 G Walt 71 277 T Amour 66; 5 Duntag 69; E Els [SA] 70; J Hass 68: D Toms 67. 278 D Briggs 67. P H Horgan 68. 279 G Day 72; 6 Hjertsteck (Swe) 67; N Price (Zim) 68: G Chalmers (Aus) 70; Grittl 69. 280 N Lancaster 65; J Lenond 71: J Parnevit Ewel 69; B Iway 69; Z81 G Norman (Aus) 68; B Iway 65; B SMRSS OPEN (Geneva): Men's quarter-finalis 5 Handley (Engl or I Higgers (Engl 15-10 15-10 15-6: M Benomin (Mail to K Darwish (Egy) 14-17 15-17-15 15-2 15-3: E McAlpine (Engl to A Stevenson (Engl 12-15-15-5 15-7: N Marthew (Engl to J M Ar-cucci (Fra) 15-12 17-14 3-15 15-12 Senti-finalis: Handley to Benjamin 15-8 5-5 15-5 15-8, Marthew bt McAlpine 13-15 15-6 15-12 15-11. Flast: Handley br Marthew 13-15 15-6 15-12 15-11 15-6 15-12 15-11 289 N Lancaster 65, J Leonard 71: J Parnevik (Swe) 69: B Tway 69 281 G Norman (Aus) 69, P Spland (Swe) 69, 282 D Frost (SA) 68, 283 E Toledo (Mex.) 74, 287 B Langer (Ger) 72.

Naude 9-3 9-10 9-3 9-4. Final: Grinham be Waddell 9-2 9-6 9-3

TENNIS TENNIS

WTA EVERT CUP (indian Weth): Second round: S Williams (US) bit 1 Davemort (US) 6-4 6-2. I Novotro (US) 6-4 6-2. I Novotro (US) 6-4 6-2. I Novotro (US) 6-6 6-3: S Graf (Get) bit N Hrück-ova (Cz Rep) 6-1 6-2. M Pierce (Fr) bit Army Frazier (US) 6-0 6-3: A Cetzer (SA) bit I Novotro (US) 6-0 6-3. A Cetzer (SA) bit I Novotro (US) 6-4 6-7 7-6: C Raban (US) bit C Martinez (Ps) 6-3 6-4. P Schwider (Sant) bit A Molik (Jas) 3-6-6 16-3. S Sestrad (Fr) bit O Barabansenhova (Behar 7-6-6-0 C Buck (Jim) bit 15price) (Rom) 6-7 6-47-5; H Nagyona (Sowak) bit S Farton (H) 6-2 6-4: A Supyana (Japan) bit 1 Raymond (US) 7-6 7-5. B Rippner (US) bit B Rittner (Ger) 6-4-6-4. Grande (it) bit 1 Osterion (US) 6-4-6-4. COPP FRANKUM I SEMPLETON CLASSIC ATIP FRANKLIN TEMPLETON CLASSIC (Scottsdale, Aris): Singles, final: 1 M Gumbil (US) bit I Heart (Aus) 7-6 4-6 4- Doubles Fi-nal: J Genstoob and R Remeterg (US) bit M Knowles (Bah) and S Stofle (Aus) 6-4 6-7 6-3

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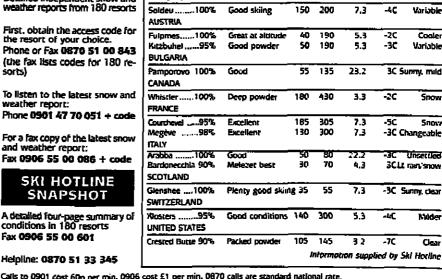
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Cricket: Australia inflict sixth successive defeat as Lara's team are dismissed for a record 51

Lowest of the low for W Indies

BY TONY COZIER in Port of Spain, Trinidad

Australia 269 & 261 West Indies 167 & 51 Austrolia win by 312 runs

AUSTRALIA administered yet another crushing blow to the already fractured spirit of West indies cricket here yesterday, sweeping to victory by 312 runs in the first Test.

They brushed aside the feeble West Indies second innings in an hour and three quarters for 51, their lowest total in their long and distinguished Test history. inflicting the sixth successive defeat on their once proud, but now broken, opponents.

It was the West Indies' sixth successive loss, following the 5-0 drubbing in South Africa in the series that ended six weeks ago that undermined their re-

LOWEST WEST INDIES TEST SCORES

51 v Australia

76 v Pakistan

Dacca 1958-59 77 v N Zealand Auckland 1955-56

78 v Australia Sydney 1951-52 86 v England The Oval 1957

89 v England The Oval 1957 90 v Australia Sydney 1930-31 91 v England

Edgbaston 1963

97 v England Lord's 1933 99 v Australia

solve for the powerful, uncompromising Australians, who are acknowleged as the best in the world, ahead of South Africa, It was the first Test for Australia under their new captain Steve Waugh, who has taken over from Mark Taylor.

On the same ground where the West Indies had routed England for 46 for a famous victory South African débácle, faced the five years ago, the West Indies managed to hold out for only the same 19.1 meagre overs their oppace of Glenn McGrath and Jason Gillespie in 11.4 overs once opener Sherwin Campbell edged Gillespie for a low catch

to Mark Waugh at second slip. The previous lowest total recorded by the West Indies was 53 recorded by the West Indies against Pakistan in Faisal-

The frailty of the West Indies batting, and spirit, was further emphasised by their first innings collapse of the last seven wickets for 18 in 12.1 overs.



Sherwin Campbell, the West Indies' opening batsmen, departs after being bowled for a duck by Australia's Jason Gillespie at Port of Spain yesterday

Captain Brian Lara, manager Clive Lloyd and coach Malcolm Marshall, all berated the West Indies Cricket Board for their "lack of leadership" that contributed to the press afterwards. All insisted the team." that there was still hope of a reponents did then. Nine of the 10 Tests but the assertion had a wickets tumbled to the probing hollow ring to it. The second Test is only five days away at

Sabina Park in Jamaica. Lara, who was appointed captain for only the first two of "Our batting is struggling at the moment. We, as a team, need to look at that immediately and see how we can get out of it "

Lara top-scored with 62 in the first innings but fell second ball for three yesterday. Only wicketkeeper Ridley Jacobs reached double figures, scoring 19, but he was responsible for

the suicidal run out of Merv Dillon. The next highest was Curtly Ambrose with six.

"Getting 50s and 60s is not enough." Lara said. "I need to get 100s, especially with so many inexperienced players in Australia, 227 for 7 at the

vival in the remaining three start stretched their lead to 362 before they were all out for 261 half an hour into the day. It took McGrath and Gille-

spie half-way through the eighth over before they could initiate the rout. After that, the four Tests in the series said: there were interrupted only by two short breaks for rain. Had it not been for four byes from a McGrath bounce: that sailed over wicketkeeper Ian Healy's head and two sets of overthrows by Greg Blewett that reached the boundary, the West Indies would not have passed England's low of 46 on the same ground in 1994.

Monday's Solution

wicket for wicket through the innings. After Gillespie removed Campbell, McGrath responded with a perfectly directed bouncer that Dave Joseph could only

fend off his chest to first slip. That dismissal brought Lara to the wicket. He bulled his first boundaries by Jacobs, the total ball from McGrath with a confidence that brought a cheer of before Roland Holder, hindered relief from the small crowd. The three runs took him down to the opposite end where, lunging forward, he edged the first ball of Gillespie's next ball

es at second slip. Lara's demise triggered the first innings collapse. Suddenly the West Indies had no one

into Mark Waugh's safe clutch-

to lean on. The left-hander Jimmy Adams, a shadow of the bats-

only four years ago, was lbw to

STEVE HARKNESS is on his

way out of Liverpool in a move

to Graeme Souness's Benfica.

Anfield squad

The two Australian fast McGrath on the back foot and, bowlers matched each other at the same score, the new, uncertain opener Suruj Ragoonath fell by the same route to

> Light rain and lunch came as a temporary relief for the West Indies and, thanks to the extras, the overthrows and a couple of mounted to 31 on resumption by a sprained ankle, provided Mark Waugh with his third slip catch, off McGrath.

McGrath broke the sequence of wickets by claiming Ambrose and Jacobs with identical lbw decisions, of which there were 15 in the match, Dillon's run out separating them.

By now, the only noise for the usually boisterous ground was coming from the few dozen young Australians, waving their man who averaged in the 70s flags, singing their songs and consuming quantities of beer.

The victory was completed when fast bowled Pedro Collins swung wildly at the first ball of Gillespie's tenth over and had his off-stump plucked from be-

It was a fine way for Steve Waugh to begin his spell as captain following the retirement of Taylor "I'm pretty pk ased The bowling was fantastic," Waugh said. He felt Australia's first innings of 269 laid the foundation for what became an easy and famous victory.

"I thought it was a great team effort but the first day really set it up for us nicely." Yesterday had begun well for the West Indies.

Courtney Walsh took his Test match haul to 404 with the wickets of Shane Warne and Stuart MacGill, but the touring team hit back immediately, ripping through the brittle West Indies' top-order.

Harkness set for Benfica move

shows worth

SERENA WILLIAMS, who won her first title last week in Paris continued her winning ways on Sunday by upsetting the sec-ond-seeded Lindsay Davenport 6-4, 6-2 in the second round of the Evert Cup. The 21st-ranked Williams believes she is on the move up the ranking ladder and is brimming with confidence.

"I definitely see myself in the top 10, but, right now, I'm not looking at that," Williams said "I'm just trying to play every match to do the best I can."

Davenport, who reigned as the world No 1 for 17 weeks from last October, is suffering with a respiratory infection The Evert Cup champion in 1997, Davenport is taking a second course of antibiotics to clear congestion in her lungs.

The match started with Dayenport having two chances to break Williams' serve in the first game and one chance in the third game of the first set Failing to take advantage, Dayenport was never able to create another opportunity to challenge Williams. It was the secand time in the three matches they have played each other that Williams has emerged victorious. "I thought probably it was more me than more her." Davenport said. "She definitely took advantage of a good day to beat a top player. I just never felt all that great about my game. I wasn't ready to play my best tennis when I had to."

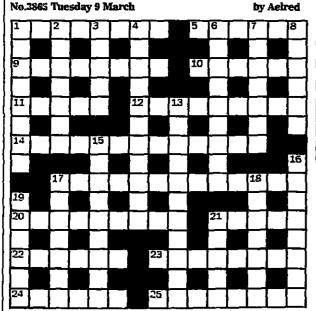
By the second set, Davenport was having difficulty controlling her shots with numerous forehands flying well beyond the court boundaries.

Williams had 10 chances to break Davenport's serve in the 65-minute match and was successful on three occasions - the final game of the first set and the second and eighth games of

the second set. The fifth-seeded Steffi Graf faced little resistance, beating Kvetoslava Hrdlikova, of the Czech Republic, 6-1, 6-2. The former world No1 announced that she will compete in next month's Hamburg tournament for the first time for five years. Graf won the event five successive times from 1987.

■ The American Jan-Michael Gambill defeated Australia's Lleyton Hewitt 7-6, 4-6, 6-4 00 Sunday to win his first ATP Tour title, the Franklin Templeton Classic in Scottsdale, Arizota Photograph, page 25

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS See terms merged in another academic

Go back with Heather giving nasty looks? (6) Succeed in getting a

woman who is very accommodating (8) 10 Feeble type adopts the 24 French religious headdress (6)

11 Stockpile found in house on a road (5) 12 Irish leader is a cheat, worried about nothing (9)

14 Coming to an end crescent could be showing superiority (13) 17 William, yours truly and a third party expressing 4 disbelief (4,2,7)

20 Continued to become

neglected (9) 21 That is something carrying a charge for a descendant (5) 22 Thrown in moat one's

cold on a small scale (6) 8 23 Winter wear at this present time in ship by Plymouth place (4-4) Territory inhabited by sick arable farmer (6)

25 Of extreme interest? (8) DOWN Personal loathing of the false possibly (4-4) State of person one's not 18 Resigned sign at report

possibly held (7) Betrayed, but holding one to be sound (5) Taking in heat, feverish echinoderm requires

6 Sing loads giving noted performance (9) Popular stage of development to be going together (2,5) Poet leaves without finishing article (6)

neous collection (4.3.4) 15 Toils hard on river being game (9) 16 Royal works out cost of engaging bridge player and his partner (8) 17 Can beat thin material (7)

of straw house (5-2) 19 Having knowledge of gold one's in rich surroundings (2,4) Second vessel becomes a drain (5)

13 Unusual building material finishes heteroge-

> nine years was decided. The move follows an independent commission ruling in

FOOTBALL

By Alan Nixon

Harkness, one of Anfield's in time to help their final push longest-serving players, is talking to the Portuguese club for the Portuguese title and a place in the Champions' League about a £750,000 transfer and his move could be the first of next season. Signed from Cartisle almost a decade ago, many as manager Gérard Houllier starts to reshape his Harkness has seen his firstteam place put in jeopardy with Souness met with Harkness the arrival of Rigobert Song. and Liverpool at the weekend

Houllier wants to raise funds and the deal will go through and make way for fresh faces. once Benfica prove they have He has £15m to spend at Livthe money. Liverpool want the erpool plus money from the cash up front. Harkness will sales of players he does not sign today once Benfica collect the money from Charlton for Evans's squad. Harkness will Harkness could join Benfica

Sean Dundee. Even David James and Phil Babb will be vulnerable if Houllier finds the right replacements in his overhaul. Karl-Heinz Riedle is leaving at the end of his contract, with Liverpool lining up Dutchman Erich Meijer on a free transfer from Bayer Leverkusen as his replacement.

The Middlesbrough manager. Bryan Robson, has confirmed an interest in the West Bromwich Albion striker Lee Hughes. Robson watched the want as he breaks up Roy 31-goal striker against Oxford on Saturday, but Hughes sufbe followed out by Oyvind Leon-fered a shoulder injury early in hardsen and Bjorn Tore the game and faces a three-

Kvarme, goalkeeper Brad week lay-off. Robson said: "We Friedel, Danny Murphy and have monitored Hughes, but we have monitored a lot of other The Nottingham Forest

SCOREBOARD

9.1-4-18-4. Mise of the match: G D McGrath (Australia). Unapines: E Nichols. P Willey.

manager, Ron Atkinson, has given up his pursuit of Aston Villa's stressed-out striker Stan Collymore. It follows Collymore's decision to reject a return to the City Ground in a cash-plus-player swap deal involving Steve Stone.

Atkinson, who also tabled a £1m bid for the troubled star a few weeks ago, admitted: "I would say now that there is no chance of bringing Stan in It looks dead in the water."

Wembley will host an FA

would be on Monday 12 April kicking off at 7.45pm. Chelsea could be involved in Cup-Winners' Cup action on the previous Thursday and Wemb ley is unavailable on Sunday 11 April due to the Wales v England Five Nations match. The semi-

final will be switched to Villa

Park on the Sunday (12.30pm)

Vialli's side overcome Man-

chester United in tomorrow's

quarter-final replay. The game

start) if United win the replay. Newcastle will travel to Ok Trafford to face the winners of the Barnsley v Tottenham qual-ter-final on Sunday 11 April (kick off 20m or 3pm).

Bid for Wembley, page 16

Farry vows to fight dismissal

JIM FARRY was sacked yes- favour of Celtic last week after requested to attend the Council tion from the emergency comterday from his job as the Scot- the Parkhead club protested at meeting, but received no answer mittee last week. He said there tish Football Association's chief executive for his negligence in processing the transfer of Jorge Cadete, which obliged the governing body to pay compensation to Celtic last week. Farty was barred from a meeting of the SFA Council at Hampden Park, in Glasgow, at which the fate of the man who has run Scottish football for the past

the sale of Martin Pringle.

missed vital matches towards the end of the 1995-96 season sparking a bitter three-year dispute. Yesterday's decision will delight Celtic's managing director, Fergus McCann, who had demanded Farry be sacked.

the delay in registering Cadete.

The Portuguese forward

Farry issued a short statement, saying: "I will now be forced to seek legal advice. I can make no comment beyond that." It is understood Farry had tion following a recommenda-

Celtic last night released a was a procedure in place where short statement that read: "No the Council could have overone likes to see anyone lose their turned the emergency commitjob. However, in this circum- tee's decision if there had been

McGinn, who has temporarily taken on Farry's duties, revealed that no vote had been

Farry's behaviour and attitude." The SFA president, Jack taken yesterday. There was a statement saying that be had discussion about Farry's posi- been dismissed for gross mis-

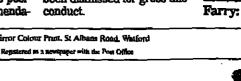
stance it was inevitable due to a two-thirds majority but there the substantial evidence of Mr was no need to put that procedure in place this afternoon. Farry was told on Friday evening that he had been dismissed when he received a let-

ter from the SFA, who issued a

Farry: Gross misconduct

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TUESDAY REVIEW



Radio Satellite TV Today's TV

In the early 1970s, it took one middle-class American salary to support a couple in middle-class American style. Now it takes two. It is now easier for a couple to find the necessary two (or three!) jobs than in 1992. This is certainly an improvement. But calling it an "economic boom" and being satisfied is a product of America's notoriously short memory.

One of the ways we did it to ourselves is with free trade, which is derived from a conservative notion of Utopia in which the average American makes as much as the average Mexican.

When the US is in a recession and elections are coming up, it is necessary to abandon the purity of economic doctrine and do something useful. (George Bush forgot that in 1992, and lost the election.) This limits how much damage doctrinaire economists can do - in America, Russians, Koreans, and Indonesians do not vote in American elections. Washington's economists can wreak havoc on helpless victims in foreign countries as ruthlessly as Stalin instituted collective farms.

Unlike most of Washington's victims, Western Europe has the economic strength to resist. I hope you do so.

Free trade is no longer an economic policy in America; it is a religious principle, an end in itself. I regret to say that you cannot expect America to talk sense about economics, any more than you can expert a Christian Scientist to be sensible about medical care.

Good luck in the banana war. I hope Western Europe can set its own course and find ways for technical progress to yield wealth and leisure, not unemployment. RICHARD BRANDSHAFT Vancouver: Washington, USA

Sir: Ken Livingstone ("The Third Way will drive Europe into a slump", 3 March) claims that the US has "relocated high-skill jobs to Mexico and other areas" and in the next paragraph that "virtually the whole global economy is suborned to serve US needs".

Clearly this "subordination" should cease forthwith: skilled Mexicans should be returned to subsistence farming and employees of US firms in the UK returned to the dole queue. R S MUSGRAVE

Interfere for nature

Sir: Your article about animals in danger of extinction ("Going before their time", 5 March) rightly focuses the blame on human intervention. But paradoxically the future of many threatened species depends upon our deliberate interference.

At English Nature we are concerned with not just the wellknown animals at risk such as the otter, but also their "poor relations": a wide variety of obscure plants and insects which contribute to the wealth of wildlife in our country.

In the UK, one of the most important habitats is lowland heathland, 60 per cent of which has been lost since 1945. Lack of management is the biggest threat to heathland and the plants and animals which depend on it.

Direct management often involves activities not commonly associated with conservation. These include cutting down trees and controlled burning to recreate the traditional landscape, and fencing off land - not to keep people out, but to keep grazing animals in.

The English countryside cannot look after itself. The best hope for wildlife is to recognise this and for us all to do our bit in supporting BARBARA YOUNG Baroness Young of Old Scone) English Nature Peterborough

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 793 2056 or a real selection of the latest address. fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity



National Orchestra Week No 2: Members of the Royal Liverpool Philarhmonic Orchestra warm up for their Mad Hatter's Tea Party concert David Rose

with my own experience.

Sir: I am a retired British citizen with no connection to the food industry apart from the pleasure of eating.

GM crops will provide the last nail in the coffin of the ecology of this sceptered isle which has been under sustained attack from the chemical companies for years. Inspired by the slogans of cheap food and larger profits we have watched wildlife rapidly disappear under attack from herbicides and pesticides and are in a fair way to producing a sterile land.

When we came to live here on the outskirts of Bromley, Kent, in 1959, bats were commonplace and owls could be heard calling at night; all have gone. The wheeling flocks of peewits in the Vale of Keston were a joy, as was the song of the skylark; all have gone. House martins, once common, have gone. We used to be awakened by a glorious dawn chorus in the summer; no more. The latest casualties are sparrows and starlings.

Politicians seem to be unaware or lack the moral fibre and guts to stand up and be counted. LWJPHILLIPS Bromley, Kent

Anti-racist Eltham

Sir: Your story "Lawrence Blunder: 80 Under Guard" (6 March) gave the impression that racist activity is on the increase after publication of the Lawrence report. In particular you quote Lewisham Race Equality Council as saying that "rumours were sweeping the area of further attacks by gangs from the Eltham area".

We in Greenwich (which includes Eltham) are concerned to hear that there are such rumours, especially as we have heard no evidence of such increase in racist activity.

We wonder if such rumours are proliferating because Eltham is now widely believed to be a hot-bed of racism. But 80 Eltham people (most of them white) gave information so sensitive that they

now have to be given police guard. Does that not give the lie to the statement of the police in the early days of the investigation that there was a "wall of silence"?

The effect of the Lawrence report (and of the better response of the Met in the past months) will have been to discourage racists, not to encourage them. It may also discourage them to know that so many of their own supposed "kith and kin" were prepared to assist the police with inquiries.

If people do not understand that racism happens everywhere in British society then the Lawrence family's struggle, and the Macpherson report, will have been in vain. JAMES GORDON

Greenwich Action Committee Against Racist Attacks London SE18

Sir: My father did not change his name when he arrived in England in 1947. Many others in his position did: and as a child I remember the feeling that he conveyed that "name-changers" were somehov taking an easy way out.

David Aaronovitch's piece (Comment, 2 March) about lowlevel pernicious racism and xenophobia, as evidenced by the extent to which immigrants have

Sir: Lord Denning was not "the

(report, 6 March). He did a lot

police could lie in court and he

of harm to British justice by

appalling vista that British

actually believed that the

Birmingham Six sbould bave

injustice. If he is the greatest

been hanged to cover up the

God save us from the best.

Secretary. Irish Community

invite private firms and

Sir: David Blunkett "is likely to

neighbouring councils" to bid

PETER MULLIGAN

Arts Project

century's greatest judge'

refusing to accept the

felt moved to anglicise their names, was subtle, perceptive and timely, and it squared 100 per cent

So I am saddened at the response of your correspondents (letters, 4, 5 March), which, together with your decision to publish, seems only to confirm David Aaronovitch's view that in this country overt racism is the tip of a much bigger and just as harmful iceberg of less conscious. ill-informed prejudice. SEB SCHMOLLER Sheffield

Sir. Almost all discussion of race and ethnicity is nonsense ("Every mixed race marriage is building a better Britain", 4 March).

All human beings are "mixedrace", resulting from complex combinations of the genes of all our ancestors, and all human marriages are "mixed-race". involving further combinations of combinations, all the way back to our obscure origins from notional ape-like creatures in East Africa thousands of generations ago.

The only proper answer to questions about our race or ethnic origin is "human". ANNA FREEMAN Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire

Dumb kids' TV

Sir: TV is a powerful educational medium. On average children spend more time in front of the box than in front of their teachers. Whereas Tom Sutcliffe points to both good and bad in television. that which is aimed at children is dismal ("The one-eyed hypnotist", 4 March).

on undercutting ITV in

Sir: I was surprised that Andreas

Whittam Smith ("It's dumb to say

depths", 8 March) left radio out of

his pantheon of cultural delights.

people interested in the arts.

current affairs and informed

opinion. There is a wealth of

criticism and philosophical

JOHN O'BYRNE

(Podium, 3 March).

Dublin

And one does not have to find

Sir: Will Wyatt makes a decent

case for the BBC as a modern

However, when he says that

areas of development, he clearly

Parliament. The BBC's attitude is

allow BBC Scotland to produce its

shown by its arrogant refusal to

own 6 o'clock television news

programme containing national,

British and international news.

tuning into STV for information on

The BBC will find many Scots

their new national parliament.

emphasise the joys of "getting"

high culture ("How low can we go",

hierarchy of high and low culture is

assumes a generalised response

from the viewer reader listener.

Sir: John Walsh is right to

2 March). But his belief in a

too entrenched. A hierarchy

Post-modernism, if it means

that response is based on

different text.

Sheffield

TOM de CASTELLA

anything, is the understanding

individual experience as well as

shared assumptions. In effect

every reader creates a slightly

DEREKYOUNG

Edinburgh

"Parliament" is one of the key

doesn't include the Scottish

public service broadcaster

drama, music, comedy, literary

discussion to be found there daily.

parking to enjoy this munificence.

The BBC networks, Radio 3 and Radio 4, are a must for literate

that culture is just plumbing the

programme merit

MAATTEWELL

I challenge any adult to watch any single episode of Blue Peter from beginning to end. and consider whether they like the idea of these presenters being a role model for their children or grandchildren. Live and Kicking, Dig It and others are so poor my

challenge would be unfair. The influence of these programmes on speech, manners and morality is probably as great as

parents and teachers put together. Having watched the trivia presented to our rising generation with such empty enthusiasm, one might re-read Brave New World and shudder at the accuracy of Huxley's predictions.

"Dumbing down" may go out of fashion as a phrase but the phenomenon is set to continue unless the present vicious circle can be broken.

Only an independent BBC could do this, but it now seems hell-bent

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

for management of schools in Hackney, east London (report. 4 March). If private firms can run schools, does this mean that, if an industrial firm looks like becoming bankrupt, schoolteachers will be brought in to run it? Perhaps the CBI would like to comment? MARC HURSTFIELD Northfleet. Kent

IN BRIEF

Sir: Rather than a meaningless financial penalty for his taunts at Graeme Le Saux, the Football Association should

insist that Robbie Fowler plays the remainder of the season with a pink triangle sewn on CLIVE JONES

Sir. Small wonder that Marks and Spencer is on its beamends if it spends good money to listen to the retail consultants Verdict deliver an opinion on "the re-ranging and price repositioning processes' ("Clothing sales battle is set to intensify", 8 March). A streamlined company would refer to altering the prices. MONTAGUE BREAM Chinnor, Oxfordshire

Sir: I can add a sinister footnote to Timothy Garton Ash's article "Long live Ruthenia" (Weekend Review, 6 March), a country which existed for just one day in 1938, according to Alan Bullock in Hitler a Study in Tyranny.

Ghosts of Ruthenia

I taught in south-west Poland for three semesters and went on a trip with a class to the South-east We emerged at a large, derelies station. The state of the rails indicated that no train had travelled beyond to the frontier

with Slovakia for some years. Walking from the train we went to the tourist house past an abandoned graveyard. The inscriptions on the elaborate wrought iron crosses were in Cyrillic and Polish Further on was a stretch of what had been a road and on either side were mounds covered in nettles.

This was a Ruthenian village They continued to fight for independence after the end of the Second World War. Normality (probably not the right word) was imposed by the Communists but fighting continued with the Polish Home Army, supported by London as well as other minorities. Memorials to the Second World War would often have the year in which

it ended as 1947 rather than 1945. The authorities considered that the only solution to the problem the Ruthenians presented was to deport them to the north of Poland

The village of Lupkow became derelict and a new one, Nowy Lunkow, was built nearby. RIWILLOTT Claines, Worcestershire

Britons' status

Sir. I shall be most interested to. hear what is in the forthcoming White Paper on British citizensh and the dependent territories, as I believe the arrangement is likely to be non-reciprocal (report, 19 February). That is, that British citizens still in Britain will not have full right of entry into the territories

This is probably reasonable. since most of the territories could not absorb much extra migration, but my question is concerned with that small band, of which I am a member, of Brits who already live and work in the territories, most of them for many years (17 for me) yet who still have to get entry permits and work permits every year. Will we still be forced to live "on sufferance" while our friends and neighbours have full rights to go to the UK?

Road Town, British Virgin Islands Weighty matters

Sir. Dr Anthony Egan's letter (3-March) suggests that astronauts are "weightless". If they were they would travel away from the earth in 🖫 a straight line. It is their weight (somewhat less than their weight at the earth's surface) which provides the centripetal force which keeps them travelling in a circular orbit around the earth. Their spacecraft is behaving in the same way, so in relation to the .

spacecraft they appear weightless. His idea that mass is "how much stuff there is" is not wholly incorrect but I think that Newton would have preferred the idea of mass being a measure of the resistance of an object to having its motion changed. Which is why Brussels's use of the word mass is appropriate in the context of bringing a trailer or caravan to a stop in a safe distance. SEB MOORE Little Walsingham, Norfolk

it State

Market Co.

Cheesed off

Sir: I take great exception to the suggestion (Dehorah Ross, 8 March) that I have a picnic hamper at Arsenal games and cry. "A nice bit of Brie anyone?" Dolcelatte or a pleasing Wensleydale perhaps, but never Brie. PIERS MORGAN

(Educated at Chailey and Lewes) Priory comprehensive schools, East Susser)

Editor "The Mirror" London E14

When Dr Cunningham threatened to hang Prince Charles:

ITS TIME for another helping of The History of King Tony or New Labour's Lost, the Shakespearean comi-tragi-history of King Tony's efforts to get his country into Europe, or at least into the next century. In the last extract, King Tony lost wo of his bravest knights, Sir Peter Mandelson and Sir Geoffrey Robinson. Now what new woes will beset our brave monarch?

The scene is the king's counsel chamber, where his advisers. spin doctors, soothsayers, astrologers, Catholic spies, etc. await him. Enter the King, followed closely by Lord "Doctor" Jack Cunningham. They stand apart and converse. King Tony: How goes the world with thee, Lord High Enforcer?

Is all at peace and quiet in my realm? Jack: My liege, your countrymen are well content, Except in Scotland, Wales and Eltham, Kent. Tony: The Scottish and the Welsh are always

But what can ail suburban, Kentish Eltham, Near where the A2 sweeps its lordly way

A tunnel, dug so cunningly 'neath the ocean, Does take our British shoppers 'cross to France Where they may buy their groceries far more cheap Than they can get them in a British shop... Does that explain the grievances in Eltham? Jack: In part, my Lord; but chief among their woes Is the unpunished killing of a black boy there By young white thugs who still walk free today. Tony: Then they must hang! Go, fetch the constable! Jack: Oh, that it were quite so easy as all that! Alas, the constable himself is also suspect. Tony: Of killing the hapless youngster, do you mean? Then send for men to bring the constable in And I shall have him hanged before nightfall! Jack: No, sire. That will not help. The constable Is not exactly guilty. But his chief, Sir Paul, Is thought to know much more than he lets on. Tony: Then bring Sir Paul, this rascal, here to me, And we shall string him from the nearest tree! Jack: No. sire. That will not do. We must proceed More gently. Bloody deeds may cleanse your soul But injure you in an opinion poll.

Down to the ancient town of Dover, where



KINGTON

'I seethe! I burn! Base Michael and vile Charles Shall feel the fiery edge of my just wrath!'

Tony: How right you are, Lord "Doctor" Cunningham! From rash reactions you are there to save me! But soft - who comes here splashed with mud, As one who rides non-stop for days and days? Enter a breathless messenger. Messenger: King Antony, I ride hotfoot from Wales,

To bring you news of freshly brewing trouble! Tony: How can this be? I thought I'd sorted out The voting for the new Welsh parliament! Saw you not the way I stitched up Rhodri Morgan And engineered into the seat of power Duke Allan Michael, boring but so loyal? Jack: I did, my liege, and well you did it too. Messenger: And yet this same Duke Michael will

Your wrath for what he's done this day in Wales. Together with Prince Charles, the Old Pretender, He has combined to eat a plate of meat! Tony: Can such a deed be called so very wrong? Messenger: The meat they ate was beef, still on

the bone! Jack: Oh, this is treachery! This is black and base! I seethe! I burn! Base Michael and vile Charles Shall feel the fiery edge of my just wrath! They have defied the han and both must hang!

Tony: Come now, my good Lord "Doctor", come! Just now you urged me not hang Paul Condon. And now I beg you to be calm and sweet. To hang Duke Allan Michael is not meet. The folk of Wales might take the thing awry If their new leader was hung out to dry. Jack: You may be right. I should just simmer down. Tony: And now it's time to fetch Duke Gordon

Jack: You aim to hang your trusty Chancellor? Tony: No, no! Well, not quite yet, at least, for now. No. this is the time when he compiles his Budget That moment when he tells the folk of England How he will take more money from their purse. He loves this moment, when he strides the stage And seem to be the expert of the age! And so I love to put my oar in too And tell Duke Gordon Brown just what to do-Jack: Which drives him mad? Which sends him round the bend! And that of course is just what I intend!

More of this intriguing saga tomorrow!

*THE INDEPENDENT

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Walkers all over the country can celebrate a victory

THE PRIME Minister spent the last years of Labour's Opposition promising more access to the countryside: indeed, he specifically promised a statutory "right to roam" over heath, down and moorland. Mr Blair's promise would have made for painful reading this morning, had the rumours that the Government was considering only local voluntary agreements been confirmed. In fact, the plans announced yesterday by the environment minister, Michael Meacher, at least promise the fulfilment of Mr Blair's pledge. Walkers and ramblers all over the country - including those in the Cabinet - should celebrate.

One of New Labour's most strongly worded pledges in opposition was the promise to create a legally enforceable "right to roam" over uncultivated land; but the vague reference to more "access" in Labour's 1997 election manifesto seemed to be a worrying indication of retreats to come on this issue.

We now know that those fears were exaggerated. A Countryside Agency will oversee local agreements between landowners and ramblers; the role of local forums will be purely to advise. There will be a statutory right to roam, which will usually take precedence over restrictions necessary to safeguard the environmental worth of special sites, and to protect farmers from the damage done by walkers trampling over their crops.

Local agreements may do little to open up new areas. Responsible landowners and farmers will co-operate, and continue to provide well-marked footpaths and tracks on their land. Bullies such as Nicholas Van Hoogstraten - the target of Ramblers Association protests at the 9-fthigh fence he has constructed across a public right of way in East Sussex - will probably go on obstructing and frustrating the legitimate claims of walkers.

The vital element in Mr Meacher's announcement is that such obstruction will not be tolerated: there will be no private vetoes for anyone. Arbitration between conflicting demands, now to be placed in the hands of Ewen Cameron as the new head of the Countryside Agency, will be vital in deciding which side prevails in deadlocks such as that on Mr Van Hoogstraten's land. Mr Cameron is a former head of the Country Landowners' Association, and has in the past publicly opposed a right to roam. Now he is said to be enthusiastically behind the Government's reforms. He will have to prove that his conversion is real.

New Labour has compromised on other "countryside" issues such as fox-hunting and farm subsidies, and has spared the voting rights of some hereditary peers sitting in the House of Lords. Now it appears to have realised the political harm these compromises were causing. Opinion polls show the public to be overwhelmingly in favour of the type of access that yesterday's plans



promise. One of the first acts of the Scottish Parliament - probably headed by a Labour first minister - later in the year will be to inaugurate a right to roam, fitting recognition of that country's long tradition of a more open countryside. The Parliamentary Labour Party was keen on Gordon Prentice's Private Member's Bill that has forced the Government's hand: Mr Blair could not afford to divide his party, as well as alienate the wider public, in his efforts to appease Middle England.

Landowners and the Conservatives, who yesterday in the Commons appeared to act almost as their mouthpiece, should realise that access to uncultivated land can no longer be denied. The local forums that will try to reach agreement between landowners and the public will be their and Government will be watching them; if they attempt to stand in the way of access, they will be overruled. The Government's radicalism is a welcome renewal of its radical mandate, won in opposition to such vested interests.

The Commonwealth can help the Caribbean

COMMONWEALTH DAY passed off yesterday with few celebrations. The attendance of parliamentary leaders at Westminster Abbey, and the Queen's Message emphasising the role of sporting links, passed without much impact on public consciousness. This is a depressing state of affairs, for we still have economic, political and judicial links with our old Empire which cannot be forgotten. The Caribbean, in the headlines owing to the "banana wars" with the US, is a good example. The legacy of our rule there is that too last chance to show that they can act responsibly. Public many countries are locked in inter-island strife, small economies unable to support specialisation and exposed to economic shocks such as the banana conflict.

Nor is our responsibility limited to a historic legacy. Prisoners in many of Britain's ex-colonies can still appeal to among those we once presumed to rule.

the Privy Council in London. Hundreds of people have successfully appealed against their death sentences in this way. The signs are that Caribbean governments will not stand for this much longer, as they prepare to institute their own Caribbean Supreme Court.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the death penalty, the Caribbeau's sovereign nations have a right to decide their own laws without British pressure - recently extended to urging more liberal laws on homosexuality. The inter-island co-operation inherent in a new Supreme Court can only be a good thing, especially if extended to economics. That should allow these countries to end clashes between European Union aid policy, administered through the Lomé Convention, and separate bilateral national agreements that serve only to divide and confuse aid efforts.

More should have been made of Commonwealth Day, revealing our duty to make amends for past exploitation, and encourage economic development and co-operation

How I learnt to hate the landowner and love the rambler

ALMOST EXACTLY 500 years ago, at Wormleighton on the border between Northamptonshire and Warwickshire, a court official, William Cope, had his manor enclosed. As a consequence 12 farms and three cottages were pulled down and their 60 or so inhabitants evicted. Eight years later Cope sold up to a John Spencer, who built himself a manor-house there. Unfortunately for Spencer there were rules against depopulating the countryside, and he found himself up before (It the beak for the acts committed by Cope. Spencer was ordered to pull down his hedges, fill in his ditches and restore the land to farming.

This brought forth a great wail of protest. As recorded by W G Hoskyns, in The Making of the English Landscape, Spencer argued that he had done great works on his land. He had maintained the parish church (vestments, chalice, the lot), built four houses for retainers, bred and fed more cattle than before, and sown acorns for trees. Furthermore, he lamented, were he to be forced to restore the land, "it should be his utter undoing" economically. Nevertheless, Spencer lost his case and down came the enclosing hedges. It was not, however, as history records, quite his "utter undoing"; the Spencers of Althorp have long had a bob or two.

Each of Spencer's arguments theems eerily familiar to anyone who has been listening to the Country Landowners' Association (CLA) and the countryside lobby since the last election. The promise of the Bill to increase public access to private land (published yesterday) led to a perfect when contrasted with the apparent im-

compendium of ingenious objections to any presumption of a right to roam. Rare red kites will no longer fly over carefully husbanded land, tended and watched over by loving rural custodians. Instead, an ignorant (if goodnatured) townie army of picnickers and Rottweiler owners would scare the birds, pick the flowers, scatter litter and destroy the fragile economy of the countryside. No, access by the public to private areas should be a matter of voluntary agreement, sensitive to local needs and inexpensive

to enforce. In a lazy way I had, for a long time, bought most of this argument. When I was young, and used to camp a lot, we were taught always to seek pitching permission from the landowner. and to be pathetically grateful if he or she permitted the corner of a far-flung field to be occupied for a night or two. And, to be fair, permission was usually granted, and often with good grace. But I had no real concept of exercising a "right". All the rights were on the side of those who owned the land; we

were there on sufferance. Furthermore, I like the word "voluntary". It is the opposite of "compulsory", and would seem more liberal Indeed the "lefter than thou" Lib Dem leadership candidate Charles Kennedy recently argued that a right to roam would be a legal minefield, and that any move to increase access should depend upon "consultation, co-operation and compromise, and a positive attitude by landowners and managers". All those warm "co-" words appeal, especially



DAVID **AARONOVITCH**

Here were all those country types come to London telling us urbanites to stay out of the meadows and copses

possibilism of the Ramblers Association, New Age travellers and the Byronic Dr George Monbiot.

But I've changed my mind. Paradoxically it was the Countryside Alliance's great marches to London that started me thinking that perhaps old Monbiot et al might be right. Here were all those country types come to London telling us that we urbanites should stay out of the meadows and couses because they alone understood how to manage the land, and we would only wreck things. All of a sudden I wondered whether this were true. Like others I began to examine the record, to ask questions.

For instance, if it was the case, as the CLA claimed, that their members wanted to see greater public access to their land, why hadn't they already have been taught by Phil, Jill, Dan, property rights over human riseen to it that this was granted? And Doris and David that outsiders on your And never mind the Spencers.

MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD

even now, when legislation was approaching noisily, like a distant steam train, why was their own voluntary scheme, the "Permitted Access" register, so utterly pathetic? I looked up the access for walkers in Shropshire. In the whole county, there were 20 schemes listed.

The conclusion to be drawn from this (and the Government has drawn it) is that landowners do not want the public on their land. And that they will invent any number of plausible-sounding reasons as to why the public needs to stay away, or should be allowed in only under the most restrictive circumstances. Yet there is no evidence whatsoever (I mean none) that properly regulated public access damages rural business, the environment, the survival of the red kite or anything else. Indeed the opposite appears to be the case. Oh, and as you might expect, in Scandinavia rights to roam exist without creating "legal minefields" or proving to be anybody's "utter undoin

So why not here? I blame it on the monarchy, The Archers, the National Trust and the English desire for all paradises to be exclusive. Together these have produced in us a serf psychology, whereby we have acceded to the idea of owning land from which we may be excluded, in the hope that we too may one day exclude others. We think it both natural and culturally desirable that rich people should have large estates (call it "heritage"), whose enjoyment is predicated on keeping the riff-raff out. We

land equals poaching, open gates, dead sheep and loss of profit. And yet, until 300 years ago our

forebears walked more or less wherever they wanted. Paths marked the most convenient ways to travel, not as today - the only permitted ways. Land ownership conveyed the right to profit from land, not the right to exclude all others from it. And then we allowed all this to disappear, and -for the best part of two centuries - the rights of landowners increased at the expense of all the other subjects of the Crown. Forests were enclosed or destroyed, common land was seized, rights of way were barred and the right to hunt wild animals was aggrandised by the few. This continues today. Oliver Rack-

ham, in The History of the Countryside, remarks on the practice of purpresture, or annexation by stealth. It "begins with a householder mowing the verge outside his garden, continues with boulders placed to prevent people driving on the verge, and ends with the ditch filled in and the verge absorbed into the garden". Some of what landowners hold, they have no right to; it was simply that at the time - no one had the time or money to contest their actions.

Yesterday all that ended. The Bill announced by Michael Meacher is the first substantial attempt in several centuries to try to redress an imbalance that has been made, falsely, to seem natural. It represents a break with our serf psychology, our forelocktugging deference, our elevation of property rights over human rights.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"He did his own thing but he was a great ball-player, that's all I know Yogi Berra,

on his Yankees team-mate Joe DiMaggio

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY "The Chancellor of the Exchequer is entrusted with a certain amount of misery which it is his duty to distribute as fairly as he can."

Robert Lowe, Chancellor of the Exchequer 1868-73

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wrong. He says the trade dispute between his country, the United States, and the European Community is not really about bananas. In his view it is about the rules governing the world trading system. But the 1 President, from his position as head of the government of a state that does not grow bananas for export, keeps looking

at the issue through vision im-

PRESIDENT CLINTON is issue is more than about rules. It is about people. The penalties facing the people of the Caribbean Community if Clinton has his way would be horrendous. Community representatives in Washington should let the American Government be aware of this prospect.

understand that the banana whether they are shipped from

Trinidad Guardian THE EU should start treating paired by myopia. He does not banana imports equally,

hurricane-hit Honduras by need urgent overhaul to stop America's Chiquita or from such rows from festering in former European colonies in the Caribbean by Ireland's ope must grasp the desirabil-Fyffes. But the WTO's dispute ity of abiding by WTO settlement procedures also judgments. The WTO, like any

World press comment on the current trade war between the US and Europe

future. And America and Eur-

timately relies on consent. It can work only if all its members, particularly the biggest ones, agree to act in good faith. The Economist, UK

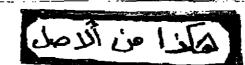
international organisation, ul-

EUROPE IS trying to tilt its market in favor of local banana importers, aircraft manufacturers and beef farmers and ward off cheaper US competition. Since open protectionism is no longer respectable, Europe cloaks its efforts with arguments about The New York Times, US

in hananas would produce in former Caribbean colonies. While not entirely without merit, these arguments disguise the real motives of European governments and impede reasonable solutions. A transatiantic trade war is in nobody's interest. Further frictions are likely as the US and Europe adjust their relationship to new circumstances.

pollution, beef hormones and

the devastation that free trade



PANDORA

subject of a Carlton World documentary next month, is Pandora's kinda dude. Winners focuses on the former meat-market porter's current gig as a professional gambler. He has racked up £60,000 a year in the last decade - and being a sporting guy, generously agreed to share his top tips. Lewis-Hamilton's nap is Deano's Beano (currently 4-1 for Cheltenham's Stayers' Hurdle on 18 March) "and the nag will take some beating". French Holly, in the Champion Hurdle two days before, is a good each-way shot at 7-4, he says, even at 7-1 to win. "especially if anything happens to the favourite, Istabraq". For the Grand National, Lewis-Hamilton likes Double Thriller: "It's got a big chance at 8-1; it's well bandicapped." The man also suggests Arsenal as good value for the premiership at 7-2; Man Utd have two tough games coming up and Chelsea "don't have the staying distance. Arsenal's run-in doesn't look too tough and Man Utd have Euro commitments." Of course, investment values may go down as well as up...

than the curiously tattooed newspaper beir Lachlan Murdoch, According to Maggie Alderson's piece in next month's Tatler, the thrustingly good-looking millionaire Aussie media scion proposed to the lingerie model Sarah O'Hare (below) the night before the Melbourne Cup. She accepted, and as the love-struck couple posed at the racecourse for the paparazzi, they noticed that a horse called Tie the Knot was among the bigrace runners.

... AS NO ONE knows better

TART WON Stanley Kubrick has rolled his final credits, it seems timely to mention that his masterojece. A Clockwork personally quashed after its initial release, is legally available on video. Kubrickies should Eurostar it over to Paris and, uniess you're lucky enough to have a Secam converter, watch it in black and white - but without dubbing or irritating subtitles. Well worth buying popcorn for.

Did it win? As if.

Pandora trusts

this is not an

THE US government has urged research labs to pioneer "more

STEVE LEWIS-HAMILTON, the | sophisticated systems" to protect Salt Lake City's 2002 Winter Olympics from rogue chemical and biological agents. Detectors currently fill a laboratorysized room; the aim is to miniaturise them into handheld units for cops and firefighters. Very laudable, but shouldn't the technology be used to detect rogue chemical and biological agents in some of the competitors?

> MARTIN BELL may have faced snipers in Bosnia and Christine Hamilton on Knutsford Heath, but the white-suited one's sternest test has materialised from an unexpected quarter. The graphologist Alan Conway amazed listeners to Spectrum, a battling radio station in the South-east, with his candid character analysis of Parliament's only Independent MP. Conway says Bell's writing suggests he's arrogant, dogmatic and prone to low self-esteem. Bell diplomatically agreed with most of the analysis, but took exception to "arrogant". "I don't think I'm arrogant. I don't go round attacking other parties." Strike

CARS SLOWED to a crawl on Chelsea's Royal Avenue this week as drivers rubbernecked a palatial white house whose windows were filled with glitterati as the walls shook from rock'n'roll. It was Richard and Ruth Rogers' incendiary thrash to celebrate the 10-year rapture of Nigella Lawson (media goddess and bestselling cookery author) and the broadcaster and writer

arrogant, insert naïve?

John Diamond, Their friends, an eclectic bunch that includes Alastair Campbell, Ruby Wax, Ian Hislop, Harold Pinter and both Mrs **Martin Amises**

watched spellbound as Diamond, who's had throat surgery, used an overhead projector to write his speech on Lord Rogers vast living-room wall – the hand moving biblically across the plaster. At Diamond's

request, dancing erupted: the highlight of the evening was Home Secretary Jack "Have-A-Go" Straw cutting a rug with Lady Rogers (of River Cafe fame) to the strains of The Cars' "My Best Friend's Girl". Jack the Biscuit – be can frisk it.

Contact Pandora by email on pandoraia independent.co.uk

An orgy of sanctimonious celebs

ARE YOU feeling warm? Are you feeling caring? In this very special week, are you reflecting that, whether you're black or white, a famous celebrity or just an ordinary person, you are part of one great human family? As you watch your favourite personalities engage in a TV sketch and then, after an appropriate "but seriously though" moment, move on to some heartwrenching footage from the front-line of misery, will you smile through your tears, reach for your credit card, and feel better about yourself until next year's Comic Relief show hits the road?

Because everyone else will be. All the people who matter are showing that they care this week. Literally scores of famous people are donating their time for free. Some have even travelled to Africa to take part in a televised celebrity relay tour. And there have been some beautiful acts of kindness in the business sector. Sainsbury's, the "Red Nose Store", are selling special doughnuts for 99p, of which 5p goes to charity. Colgate have teamed up with the Daily Express to run a (toothy!) Smile of the Year competition, and



BLACKER

It's unsettling to find alternative comedians cooing at one another from Celebrityland

are distributing "Brush Up with Colgate for Comic Relief" leaflets. Then there's a Body Shop Kissing Kit, a red nose Parker pen, while Pritt Stick are sponsoring a card design kit for kiddles to make their own Mother's Day cards. The giving just goes on and on.

It goes without saying that the People's Party are in the vanguard of celebrity carers. Gordon Brown,

posed for a Comic Relief photoopportunity and it would be no surprise to see him present the Budget wearing a red nose of caring.

No one could deny that this great charity event is doing excellent work for those who participate. Comedians, politicians and soap opera actors can boost their often flagging careers with a public display of those two essential attributes for the modern celebrity: a social conscience and a sense of humour. Large businesses, many of whom have a less than spotless record of philanthropy, can flog their products with the help of free publicity from a compliant press. The BBC can fill up programme space with embarrassingly feeble material. It also, importantly and undeniably, provides a massive boost for worthwhile charities -£138m over the past 14 years.

But is there not something creep ilv sentimental and self-indulgent about this great annual orgy of oublic, institutionalised giving? Night after night, we are subjected to show-us-you-care bullying from comedians, the very people who

should stand back from the herd and distrust the Diana effect. How unsettling it is to find yesterday's alternative comedians trilling and cooing at one another from the

heart of Celebrityland. First giving becomes part of show business; soon it becomes all show, complete with well-lit documentary film and a backing track from Robbie Williams. Ever since Billy Connolly blubbed in front of the Live Aid cameras, having watched a film of starving Africans to the sweet but utterly irrelevant strains of a number by The Cars, the connection between gloopy pop songs and real suffering has become acceptable. Today, even grown-ups like Richard Curtis can, without a second thought, introduce a Desert-Island favourite by the country chanteuse Iris Dement with some well-meaning, lachrymose thoughts about Third World suffering.

It is as if Hollywood effects must be deployed to remind us how to feel, as if we endlessly need to be reassured of how generous and giving and kind we have all become. "You are a truly amazing bunch of people," Lenny Henry tells us in thanks for raising a largiferous £27m". last year. But are we that amazing really. Take a look at the encless TV documentaries that record and batten upon the various types of selfishness, cruelty, vanity and betrayal at the heart of modern society. Consider the behaviour of tabloid journalists, mocking and persecuting the celebrity victim of the moment on behalf of readers who have become suffering junkies, hooked on human pain. See the behaviour of hosts. guests and audiences on daytime TV shows: they cry - crying's obligatory but does the crushing, all-exchisive obsession with self honestiv represent a more caring society than that of 10, 20 or 30 years ago?

Of course, we should give. We should try to ignore such ghastly stunts as Ruby Wax pretending in be a souffle in a sketch with Gary. Rhodes; close our ears to the smooth, sincere tones of Stephen Fry; and indulge the zany antics of lovable Lenny. But perhaps it's time to stop wearing our hearts on our sleeves, our red noses on our faces. quite so smugly. Because deen down, we all know that this week's

The unbearable arrogance of the world's only superpower

THE TRIUMPH of the United States in this American-dominated century has been good for Britain and good for the world. America, as its most famous historian, Alexis de Tocqueville, once observed, is Great because America is Good. But American goodness is being tarnished. In dealing with foreigners, the United States increasingly appears at best insensitive, and at worst, bullying. The most obvious example is the possibility of a trans-Atlantic trade war over bananas, and a separate dispute which could end up with Concorde being banned from US airports.

Trade disputes are always nasty, and British people are open-minded enough to suspect that the US will eventually be proved right over the banana saga. We have a sceptical view of European Union bureaucracy and in a few weeks, the World Trade Organisation may indeed conclude that Europe has breached international trade rules. But the lara iz - merana - zmi oni dag process, a cornerstone of the laws of all civilised countries, has not been completed. Until the WTO verdict. America's conduct in threatening tariffs on cashmere knitwear and other goods looks like an 800-pound gorilla staging a temper tantrum. The Clinton administration babbles that Europe must "play by the rules" while effectively insisting that only American rules really count.

The dressing-up of American interests as if they were international moral imperatives is not new but it is emerging in an especially naked form under the Clinton administration. Their attitude towards the small Caribbean banana producers is extraordinary. Last Friday, the Prime Minister of St Lucia expressed fears that his island's economy could be wrecked by US action. Unemployed Caribbean manslaughter charges of US Marine



GAVIN ESLER

Clinton babbles that Europe must 'play by the rules' while insisting only American rules count

men might take to the drug trade as a way of making a living. Privately, this has been a worry for months among British diplomats. One very senior British diplomat says the banana row is the most bitter dispute Grenada - and that the Americans just won't listen to reason. Yet immediately following the

statements by the St Lucian Prime Minister, I interviewed a spokesman from the US Trade Representative's office in Washington which is at the centre of the dispute. He quickly brushed off the concerns of the Caribbean banana producers, in effect suggesting that the United States knows better about the economic interests of the region than the people who actually live there. This is as patronising as the British in the days of the Rai, and - again like the British a century ago -American insensitivity to foreign opinion stretches far deeper.

Last week saw the acquittal on

pilot Captain Richard Ashby. He flew a military aircraft into the cable which held up a gondola above the Italian ski resort of Cavalese a year ago, killing 20 people. Ashby was supposed to be flying at a top speed of 517 mph and an altitude of 2000 feet. He hit the cable at 621 mph and was just 370 feet above the valley floor, yet a US military jury found him not guilty. "If those accused are not guilty," the Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema complained, "then we would like to know who is." The Mayor of Cavalese, Mauro Gilmozzi, called the verdict "a profound injustice, an affront to common sense and an insult to the families

The Italians wanted to try Captain Ashby themselves, but the Pentagor cited NATO treaty provisions and flew him back to North Carolina. It is, frankly, inconceivable that if an Italian pilot killed 20 American citizens in Aspen or Vail, he would escape punishment. If America is so Washington - as bad as the 1983 dis- abroad, even in a friendly Nato agreement over the US invasion of country, you can imagine the virtual impossibility of the United States ever signing up to any international human rights regime which could lead to soldiers facing charges for their actions during combat.

of those who died".

But if irritating Britain and Italy in the past few days is not enough, it was also Germany's turn to feel scorned. The state of Arizona gassed to death a German-born convicted murderer Walter LaGrand despite strong protests from Germany's justice minister. She criticised the United States for ignoring international treaties and called the execution barbaric. Now our imperial pretensions

are long gone, the British can joke about 19th-century arrogance, the "white man's burden", and British newspaper reports of fog in the



Captain Ashby: not guilty of cable-car deaths Randy Davey

Channel ensuring that the Continent so often this century, the United is cut off. But at the end of the 20th States is firmly on the side of Good century the United States displays against Evil, though the policy all the imperial and insular in- towards Iraq is arguably as flawed

his own gunboat diplomacy. He to lend a hand against the Iraqi ordered Cruise missile strikes against a terrorist base in Afghanistan and a pharmaceutical factory in Sudan. Washington has never produced any credible evidence that the Sudanese factory was making chemical weapons, but the US government has not apologised for blowing it to pieces.

In a one-superpower world, there is no way of holding the Clinton administration to account, nor is there much of an outcry in the media about America acting tough in faraway countries full of troublesome foreigners. We have almost daily bombings of Iraq, with Britain tagging along as a partner. At least 17 Iraqi civilians have been killed and, to the annoyance of Turkey, the main oil pipeline from Iraq has been destroyed. In taking on Saddam, as States of Anger'

sensitivity of Palmerston's Britain. as the policy which has kept Fidel Last year, at crucial stages in the Castro in power in Cuba for 40 tyrant, we still have cause to worry.

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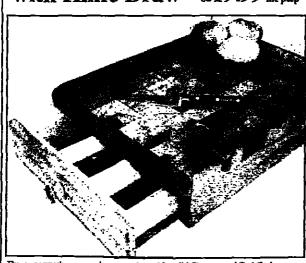
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Our role looks to many Arabs as if we are merely giving a multi-lateral gloss to what is effectively an American show. The greatest superpower in the history of the world is not always right. When it is wrong, it rarely admits it. And when it is right, the perceived arrogance of unchecked American power might yet prove unbearable. With the confidence of a sleepwalker, the Clinton administration seems to regard foreigners in much the same way as Ronald Reagan did after a visit to Latin America in 1982.

You'd be surprised," Reagan said. "They're all individual countries." You'd be surprised. Gavin Esler is a presenter on BBC News 24 and author of The United .

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How reliable is animal testing?

TAKING MEDICATION is a daily routine for many. Lives are routinely saved by medicines such as antibiotics. vaccines, and chemotherapeutic agents. Drugs such as painkillers and anaesthetics daily improve the lives of

Before being marketed, these miracle drugs are tested first on animals, and then in clinical trials on human volunteers. The animal tests are intended to evaluate new medications for toxicity, carcinoteratogenicity, side-effects and sometimes, efficacy. Human trials are then undertaken to verify that the animal tests have accurately predicted the effects and sideeffects of the new drugs on humans. Human clinical trials

take place in many forms. Humans who are very sick can be given an untried medication that may help them. This occurs in patients with potentially fatal diseases such as cancer or Aids. If the patient is likely to die from their disease, then they are thought to have nothing to lose and potentially much to gain from trying the

human trials can also ask for volunteers, to take the medication and then undergo blood tests and report side-effects. The humans volunteering for clinical trials are assured that the risk they are taking is minimal. After all, the drugs have already passed animal trials.

Does animal experimentation really contribute to the safety of those volunteering to test new medicines? How reliable is animal testing in terms of human safety? Let's look at the example of Thalidomide.

Thalidomide may be the best-known medication that harmed humans even after extensive animal testing. Like all drugs, it was tested on animals prior to being released. However, not until phocomelia had been recognised in babies whose mothers had taken the drug, did it undergo extensive animal tests for teratogenesis.

The researchers working with Thalidomide had done experiments on rats, but had not produced the characteristic limb abnormalities seen in humans. After clinicians warned that they suspected Thalidomide of causing this devastating birth defect in chil- or the chimp will respond as new drug. Co-ordinators of dren, researchers raced back does man, until one knows



C RAY GREEK

From a speech by the organ transplant expert to the Doctors for Responsible Medicine Conference in London

to the lab to see if their clinical brethren were correct. Despite testing Thalidomide

on scores of species, breeds, and strains of animals, phocomelia was infrequently seen. Testing on more than 50 types of animals did not consistently produce the side-effects that crippled thousands of children. There is no way to know whether the rabbit, the beagle

ications is not predictive. There is little value in confirming

PODIUM

that a negative outcome occurs in certain other species after babies have been crippled or humans have died. The dead and crippled are unlikely to be comforted by the fact that they react as New Zealand white rabbits do but differently from guinea-pigs! There is no single animal that makes a good bellwether. An animal that responds like humans to one medication will not necessarily respond the same way to an-

Animal testing of new med-

How well the animal test predicts outcomes in humans depends on the animal species picked However, you don't know which one to pick until after you know what the medication does to humans.

other medicine.

In America, the Food and Drug Administration is charged with assuring that medications released to the public are safe. It oversees clinical trials after the medications have been tested on animals. Certainly, they would not depend on animal tests un-humans undergoing less they had great confidence

how man responds. By then, in them. One high-ranking the horse is well out of the barn. FDA official stated: "Most of the animal tests we accept have never been validated They evolved over the past 20. able with them."

Animal testing of new medicines has delayed the marketing of life-saving medications like penicillin, for years. It has the potential to prevent others from ever making it to patients who need them. It has also resulted in human beings being harmed by unsafe medications that had received a clean bill of safety in animal tests. Humans participating in clinical trials are at risk because of the false sense of security perpetuated by those who profit from the release of new medications. This includes pharmaceutical companies, pharmaceutical sales people, animal experimenters, and those who sell supplies and animals for that process.

The informed consent given to those participating in clinical trials should clearly state that the testing of new medications on animals offers no safety for the

Stand and deliver, Mr Brown



HAMISH **MCRAE**

Test what Mr Brown says against Lara Croft: does he make it more likely Britons. take risks?

JEAN-BAPTISTE Colbert, Louis XIV's famed minister of finance. said: "the art of taxation consists of so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the least amount of hissing? Gordon Brown has proved him-

elf to be a skilled plucker. So successful in fact that he will announce today that the budget is in surplus. Thanks in part to the strong economic growth but also thanks to his ability to nudge up taxation without us noticing too much. he will be able not only to unveil the surplus but also cut some taxes and announce some new initiatives to promote faster growth. Oh yes, and there will be some new, albeit modest, spending proposals too.

A lot of feathers, muted hissing is it all to good to be true? Anyone who doubts the way in which the public verdict of a Chancellor can change should remember the fate of the last Chancellor to announce a surplus, Nigel Lawson. At the time he was the great hero of the government; now, fairly or unairly, he is regarded as the perpetrator of the "Lawson boom", and the subsequent recession. Listening to Gordon Brown today we will hear similar triumphalism. How do we distinguish the new clear signals from the cacophony of the background noise? How soon will we, as we did with Lord Lawson,

The new information comes in three chunks. First, what seems to be happening to the economy, for that determines the background to both the spending and the revenue side of the budget. Second, what is new about public spending, for that will ultimately determine what happens to overall tax levels. And third, to what extent is the tax system being fine-tuned to discourage things that the Government does , not want people to do, and encouruge things it does.

As far as the economy is concerned, it will be humble-pie time - or at least it ought to be - for growth this year is clearly going to be much lower than the Chancellor was predicting last summer. Then he forecast 2 per cent growth this year. We all knew that was for the birds, and said so at the time. By November, he was down to 1 to 1.5



Lara Croft, the computer game beroine, is the pin-up of high-tech industries - but we are more ambivalent towards encouraging low-tech industries

per cent, which still seemed a bit unlikely. Now the forecast will probably be 0.5 to 1 per cent, which looks more reasonable. The more contrite the Chancellor is about previous overestimates, the greater the credibility of the new estimates.

The next thing to watch for will be the forecast for next year. Will there be a solid recovery in the year 2000 after the pause this year? If so, why? Is the Chancellor worried about the slow-down in Europe, for growth in Euroland ground almost to a halt in the last three months of last year? If growth has been lower than expected, why will the Government's finances be better? It is partly because that growth in revenue tends to lag behind the growth of the economy, so that the Government is now receiving the benefit of the strong growth of a year or 18 months ago; it is partly because of the tax increases that have been slid in over the last two years; and it is partly because spending has been held down.

That leads to the spending side. One of the characteristics of our Chancellor is that he keeps announcing new spending moves, which sound impressive, but when

you add up what is actually being spent, it is really very small. The Government has also been quite good at trying to extract more efficiency from the public sector, so the combination of small dollops of money and a general drive for better quality has given the appearance that it is running its own activities reasonably well. That is probably a fair judgement. But when examining public spending plans, look for indications of the output as much as the amount of money going in. Is the government really spending more, and if so, how well? And to what extent is it shuffling money between departments?

One thing is absolutely sure. If the government is really spending more money, the tax burden will rise. If not, then the tax burden will not rise. Elementary, but not something that Chancellors tend to shout about. And taxes? We know quite a lot about what will happen, thanks to the wise policy of having a green, or outline, Budget in November. There will be the announcement of a new 10 per cent starting band for income tax. Other hot political issues will be whether tax is applied to child benefit (probably not) and

what happens to the married tax allowance. There will be higher taxes on petrol and tweaks to the car tax system. But perhaps the most important tweak to the tax system the one which will determine whether the budget can really be used to improve the growth prospects of the country - will be what Gordon Brown does to stimulate enterprise.

That might seem an odd point to make. Labour governments have not historically been very strong in the enterprise department. It is to the great credit of this one that it is aware that the rate at which new businesses start is one of the most important determinants, maybe the most important, of the future wealth of this nation.

For Gordon Brown, this is particularly important. He won't be be promoted or sacked. How do you make your mark? How do you really change things, hopefully for the better? Answer: you try and improve the long-term growth performance of the economy.

The most interesting aspect of this is the desire to boost risk-taking, the aim to inject something of

the fizz of American entrepreneurship into the British psyche. In terms of economic self-confidence. there is a gigantic gulf between the self-confident "we can conquer the world" attitude of the new businesses sprouting all over America (often started by 18-year-olds) and the worried, inward-looking "play it safe" attitude of much of continental Europe. Britain is somewhere in between: we have some of the American vigour, but also some of the continental timidity. But what

can you do? We will learn today, though we won't know the outcome for a decade or more. There will be a new package of measures to promote business start-ups, and to make it easier for small companies to raise risk capital. But can you make people want to take risks? It is not just a question of money; it is also a question of temperament; of style; of the values that society puts on different human behaviour.

As a society, we clearly welcome people making money from performance: football stars and pop singers are the heroes and heroines of the age. We don't, in general, welcome business people making

money. We welcome people starting high-technology businesses, but we are more ambivalent to people taking over and trying to improve lowtech ones. Contrast the attitude towards Ian Livingstone, creator of Lara Croft, and the people trying to cope with the backlog of two generations of underinvestment in the nation's trains.

Is Lara Croft high technology? That is the other thing. The new industries we are creating are brain industries: software as much as hardware. High-tech is not just Cambridge science park, though it is that too. It is bright people with ideas. When Gordon Brown stands up today, test what he says against Lara Croft: does anything he does make it more likely that talented Britons will take risks to create the new companies of tomorrow?

If not, then he will ultimately be judged a failure, like so many of his predecessors of both parties – and for that matter, like Colbert.

Colbert was a great initiator of state scientific enterprises. It seemed to work for a while, but ultimately English market-led policies outpaced French, state-led ones. Clever plucking isn't enough.

RIGHT OF REPLY

JUDITH **SUMMERS**



A Hampstead village resident replies to David Aaronovitch's attack on the area and its residents

IT'S A surprise to see a columnist supposedly concerned with world events preoccupied with a little affair like Hampstead's new traffic system. Let's hope his view of world affairs isn't as hysterical as his view of Hampstead.

According to Aaronovitch, Hampstead residents opposed to the scheme are "frightened conservative people who have wielded power in the old world and don't want it changed". On what does he base this sociological damnation?

Starting this spring, at a cost of around £160,000, the socalled "experimental" scheme will impose an ill-thought-out system of one-way streets. ugly signs and road closures on a beautiful and historic area. Hampstead streets are narrow, and at rush-hour there can be jams and even odd bouts of road rage. But for the remaining hours, and at weekends, the streets are virtually car-free. Camden Council proposes a sledge-hammer solution for a small problem that could be solved for a fraction of the cost by a few speedhumps and traffic-tables.

The local ambulance service and fire brigade have condemned the scheme as positively dangerous. And villagers already feel victimised by the inverted snobbery that Aaronovitch displays. Historic Hampstead is fast becoming just another urban theme park of cappuccino shops and mobile-phone showrooms.

The East Heath Association, whose "salmon-coloured" leaflet offended Aaronovitch's sensibilities, is all for trafficcalming measures. What it objects to is a heavy-handed one-way system that is both potentially dangerous and expensive. Is it just class solidarity with the People's Republic of Camden that makes Aaronovitch so in favour of this scheme? Or maybe his street is one of the lucky few that will not be blighted by it?

Resisting the republic

IRISH REPUBLICANS used to believe 1 That their enemy was the British state. Drive the Brits out and Ulster Protestants would realise that they were really Irish and everyone would live happily ever after in an all-Ireland socialist republic. Peter Taylor's book is about the people who proved the republicans wrong.

Three times this century, Ulster Protestants have become vigilantes. The first Ulster Volunteer Force, formed in 1912 to resist home rule, was a genuine mass movement. Led by the Ulster aristocracy, it recruited 90,000 men and bought a ship-load of guns. Rebellion was averted by the outbreak of war in 1914; the UVF was incorporated into the British Army as the 36th
Division. In the unrest that followed
the partition of the island, the UVF was

of the Dublin Easter Rising by
launching a coup in Belfast in 1966.
They protected the state by ineptly



TUESDAY POEM

THE SOPHISTICATE

I am a tall, mid-Western gynaecologist

Arrived in Paris for my very first time.

Sure it's a city of the imagination

Solid as this kerb in Montparnasse.

Patisseries, deep spinach roulades, wines,

Dark-varnished shelves of petites tartes oignons -

I buy a hat, a small cigar, and then,

Stepping up to give my keynote speech,

I clearly see its thirty numbered pages

Locked in the third drawer down, left far behind me

In Iowa, or dour Lincoln, Nebraska,

Second Pond, Joesville, or Junction Gulch.

Our poems today and tomorrow come from Robert Crawford's

fourth collection, 'Spirit Machines' (Cape, £8)

TUESDAY BOOK

LOYALISTS BY PETER TAYLOR, BLOOMSBURY, £16.99

the state, this time as the Ulster Special Constabulary.

The third UVF was different. It was formed by a very small group of working-class ultra-Unionists who were persuaded, despite the lack of an active IRA, that republicans were planning to mark the 50th anniversary

again mobilised and again co-opted by murdering three people who had nothing at all to do with the IRA.

When the real Troubles began four years later, the UVF's leader, Gusty Spence, was languishing in Crumlin Road prison. Skipping jail while out on parole for his daughter's wedding, Spence spent four months of 1972 at liberty on the Shankhill Road, in which time the UVF recruited, armed itself and set about a campaign of brutal retaliation for IRA attacks. At the same time, thousands of young men joined the vigilante groups that became the Ulster Defence Association.

In this well-informed companion to his BBC television series, Peter Taylor details the subsequent history of the UVF and UDA as they combined naked sectarian murder with occasionally well-targeted attacks on leading republicans (made easier in the Eighties by the rise of Sinn Fein as a political force). The most remarkable feature of that history is the emergence of a clear political vision from a culture of knee-jerk retaliation. Inspired by Spence's appreciation that if Northern Ireland were to have any future, it would have to accommodate the nationalist population, the UVF played a significant role in bringing

about the ceasefires of 1994. The world that produced Lenny Murphy and the Shankhill Butchers also produced David Ervine and Billy Hutchinson - the only two Unionist leaders who really believed in the Good Friday agreement. While Ian Paisley was denouncing the deal and most Ulster Unionists were fatalistically

Unionist Party was positively promoting it as the way to a decent and

However precarious the Good Friday deal, that it is alive at all owes much to the refusal of the paramilitary leadership to endorse the martial rhetoric of some Unionist politicians. Small numbers of dissidents may try to derail the settlement, but the UVF and UDA will not again, as they did in the 1974 strike, provide the muscle for the politicians.

Taylor's book is readable and sensible in its assessment of sensitive issues. Although he concludes that Paisley sailed close to the wind in the Sixties, Taylor exonerates him from personal involvement in vigilante violence. He accepts evidence of limited security-force collusion in some loyalist activities but rejects the nationalist claim that the British security forces, rather than the UVF, bombed Dublin and Monaghan in 1974.

However, although Taylor's reporting is of the highest quality, in the end it disappoints because it fails to explain. Each facet of the paramilitaries - victim selection, organisation, political evolution, racketeering - is reasonably accurately described, but the links between them are not explored. Big, background questions are left unanswered.

For example, Portadown appears a number of times. It was the home of some of the "premature" paramilitaries of 1966 and of the UVF unit that bombed Dublin and Monaghan in 1974. Ulster Resistance, an Eighties movement that brought together the paramilitaries and the fringes of the Taylor has performed an important rural evangelical world, was strongest there. It was the base of Billy "King Rat" Wright and the site of the annual Drumcree event. Why are Portadown Protestants so much more militant than, say, their Londonderry counterendorsing it as better than it might parts? Why do evangelical Protest-



Ulster Freedom Fighters gunman

antism and terrorism overlap in Portadown, when in Belfast those two constituencies are completely separate? Taylor reports, describes and illustrates the situation with revealing quotations from the key players; but he does not explain. One final complaint: considering the

profits the publisher must expect, the book's production is poor. It is littered with niggling errors. For instance, the Taoiseach is rendered "Taoisach" and named Bertie "Aherne" (as in Caroline, Mrs Merton). and the account of Drumcree 1998 is rendered baffling by the sentence "The Orangemen were now allowed down the Garvaghy Road"; the fourth word should be "not"! Despite that, function in illuminating a neglected aspect of the Northern Ireland conflict which deserves to be widely read.

The reviewer is professor of sociology at the University of Aberdeen

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Stanley Kubrick

was an obsessed perfectionist. He became a very mysterious personality, for he refused to give interviews. He kept out of the idiotic showbiz limelight, so his character was not diluted by over-exposure in the media. He preserved unusual artistic integrity, though he was not above sowing false trails in his personal and professional life.

His last film, Eyes Wide Shut, so long in the making, so teasingly announced and coyly delayed, was the apotheosis of this hide-and-seek mentality. The stars, Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, and even the bit players, had to agree to a contract stipulating no fixed time limit for the movie's completion, and that put the actors at the total mercy of the director's unpredictable caprices.

On the Internet, rumours were more than rife - they were ripe. The film is based on a story by the Austrian novelist Arthur Schnitzler, in which Nicole Kidman plays a drugsniffing society woman with nymphomaniac tendencies. In a particularly steamy scene, Harvey Keitel was making love to her and suddenly ejaculated on her costume, after which Kubrick dismissed him and his place was taken by Sidney Pollack. An actor should simply act, and be in control of his emotions, not the slave of them. That was the Kubrick ethic.

We have waited 12 years for this new movie, since Full Metal Jacket (1987). If that film had been brought out in time, it would surely have beaten Oliver Stone's Platoon to the post for a directorial Oscar. As it was, Kubrick was never rewarded with that highest honour, and could not have cared less.

Kubrick was born and bred in the Bronx in New York in a family of Central European immigrants whose roots were in Romania, Hungary and Austria. Stanley was a rebel at school, so his father enrolled him in a chess academy to encourage serious thought - an institution of which he became the champion.

On his 12th birthday, his father presented him with a Graflex camera. This was the trigger to his future fame as a cineaste. On the way to school, carrying the camera in his lunch bag, he would snap local street scenes, and stared selling his work to magazines, until he was hired by Look magazine. With a friend he made his first low-budget films, documentaries about boxing and a flying preacher.

In 1953, with the cash he won from a chess contest, he made his first "cheapie" feature, Fear and Desire, prophetically a war story set in an imaginary kingdom. It already showed his allegiance to great film noir creators Fritz Lang, Samuel Fuller, Robert Siodmak, artists of violent expressionism Kubrick was to exploit in the crimes of A Clockwork Orange and the assassination of Quilty in Lolita. This early work led to his being placed

AS A film director, Stanley Kubrick he made his first big feature, The Killing, in 1958.

Unlike many other directors, Kubrick did not allow himself to become manipulated by the studios. He oversaw all his scripts, made his own final cut, always maintained his personal style of film-making, and insisted upon the originality, often shocking at the time, of his subjects. He did not limit himself to one genre.

In 1960 he launched into a lavish peplum, Spartacus, starring an actor, Kirk Douglas, who was to become his friend, and closely associated with his future work. "I tried with only limited success to make the film as real as possible," he commented. "But I was up against a pretty dumb script" - by the blacklisted Dalton Trumbo - "which was rarely

Kubrick did not allow himself to be manipulated by the studios. He oversaw all his scripts, made his own final cut and insisted upon the originality, often shocking at the time, of his subjects

faithful to what is known about Spartacus." Nevertheless, it is a great spectacle, with interesting touches of outrageous kitsch reminiscent of the best Ricardo Freda.

But it was Kubrick's 1962 version of Nabokov's erotic thriller Lolita that made his name a household word. Because of censorship problems in America it was shot in Britain. "How did they ever make a movie of Lolita?" was the leading come-on in the extravagant studio publicity. It drew the wrath of smalltown America and British bluenoses. Accusations of incest and paedophilia have haunted the movie to the present day: a limp new version ran foul of a society recently reawakened to the perils of pae-

right before it had ever been shown. At the time, the project seemed insane. One of the century's greatest novels, it did not really lend itself to convincing scripting, because Nabokov's voice is so unique, so immaculately personal, so brilliantly literary in its evocation of certain weird aspects of American social life. The book is too funny to be really disturbing, and this is partly what made Kubrick's version less under contract in Hollywood where sulphurous than it might have been.

Nabokov's prose is so enthrallingly persuasive, but much of it was lost in the simple portrayal of plot and character. Kubrick worked closely with the novelist on the script, and Nabokov was appalled by what happened to his studied aesthetic tone, although the actors, James Mason with his seductive Cambridge drawl, goofy Sue Lyon as Lolita, and the immense Shelley Winters as the eternal vivacious middleclass American widow, were perfectly directed, totally in Kubrick's control.

In 1963, the really great Kubrick period took flight with the immensely popular Peter Sellers in the multi-personality roles of Dr Strangelove with its ironically throwaway subtitle "How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb". (The enormous success of the film did not, of course, stop the arms race or end the Cold War - our leaders are impervious to irony.) Dr Strangelove satirised the military unmercifully, as if it were a black comedy version of his 1958 film Paths of Glory.

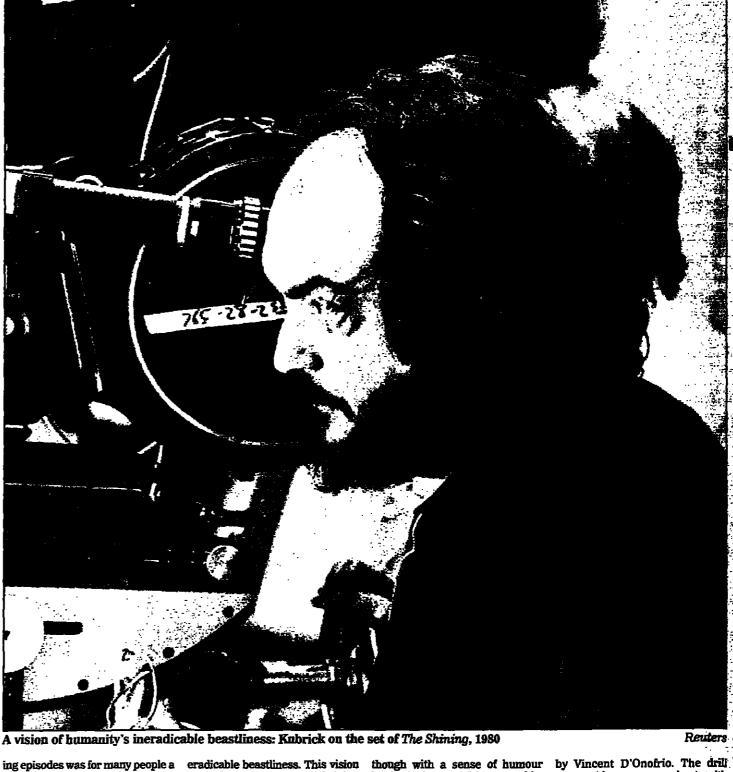
Kubrick's peculiar sense of humour in Dr Strangelove expressed clearly the anti-war, anti-nuclear spirit of the times, much as Oh What a Lavely War! derides the almost sacrosanct First World War. So he shows us images of nuclear disaster backed by Vera Lynn belting out "We'll Meet Again".

The same highly personal feeling for the appropriateness of inappropriate music is found in the spacedocking sequence in 2001 with "The Blue Danube" waltz, and in a sickening punch-up in A Clockwork Orange in which Malcolm McDowell warbles "Singin' in the Rain" - a criticism of popular sentimental song as well as a pointed sigh for irresponsibility in the young.

Full Metal Jacket ends with the jaunty rhythms of the Mickey Mouse Club It begins with pictures of young recruits being shorn by a Marine Corps demon barber to the tune of an insipid lyric reminiscent of the syrupy ditties of the Second World War. One gets the feeling that nothing has changed in the army. The helpless young innocents are simply cannon fodder. Here, too, the music plays a significant atmospheric role: "These Boots were Made for Walkin' " and "Surfin' Bird", with the "kiddies" song at the close.

Dr Strangelove was followed in 1968 by 2001: A Space Odyssey, with a scenario by the magnificent SF master Arthur C. Clarke. It was space movies, now regrettably cheapened by overdoses of special effects and loud explosions. Nineteen seventy-one saw A

Clockwork Orange come under attack. Set in a violent future, it provoked outrage in Britain, and the anti-hero of Malcolm McDowell was accused of perverting clean-living youth, of encouraging violence and the sort of picturesque hooliganism that has now become commonnlace everywhere. One of the most shock- true Kubrick vision of humanity's in-



rape played as a youthful romp. It seemed to suggest a total contempt for women and for sexual mores at that period, and even held ominous intimations of neo-fascism.

Kubrick spoke out against the censor in defence of his film. But in the curious fateful fashion of uncharted and unconnected events. soon after it was screened there were rapes and killings and gang confrontations between unemployed youths that might have been taken to be inspired by the violence in

Though it was totally irrational. Kubrick lost his cool at the reports and had the film withdrawn. He had also, it is said, been personally the first of a long series of outer threatened. His contract stated that he could have the power to withdraw the film from the public domain, and it has not been played in Britain since the late Seventies. Its harsh vision of a London of the future has now well and truly entered the

present of all our cities. In 1975 Kubrick surprised everyone by making Borry Lyndon, on the surface a pretty period film seemingly entirely lit by candlelight. Behind the charm, however, lies the

was raised to even greater heights of genuine horror in The Shining (1980) with a maniacal axe murderer played by the insanely grinning Jack Nicholson

The literary sources of Kubrick's films are varied. He obviously was a discriminating and widely read lover of books. But his adaptations of great literary works and minor ones - from Nabokov's Lolita to Terry Southern's Dr Strangelove, with the strange branch of Thackeray's Barry Lyndon sticking out from among the moderns - were sometimes, under his close scrutiny, far from the originals. For example, Nabokov's work is pure language play on a banal love-and-

did not really exist. He makes the deliberately flimsy plot more important than the words, and in doing so gives us superb satirical pictures of American daily life and speech, only hinted at by the original text. His use in other films of army slang tends to dehumanise the characters, almost as in 2001 the robot Hal's deformed speech makes him appear to be on the level of a true sub-human,

the film-maker the sense of language

lacking in the crew of the space ship. Similarly, we value Burgess's novel for the sake of its language, a new dialect that we take pleasure in deciphering and coming to terms with. But this is missing from Kubrick's concept of the book, and that lack depressed Burgess until the sales suddenly shot up to phenomenal heights. His author's honour had

been redeemed Kubrick had been planning a new interpretation of the Napoleonic campaigns. But in 1987 he directed the only real masterpiece on the Vietnam War, Full Metal Jacket. The basic training episodes and later sequences in which the men have to confront their first prisonfeelings about the land they are trapped in form some of the best documentary moments of a brutally realistic film. The title refers to a shell casing representing the soldier who is outwardly tough but inwardly empty, the sort who can survive such

inhuman ordeals. This troubling sense of the frailty of burnan character becomes even more pointed in the deeply moving portrait of a sensitive misfit, a figure of deep anguish, superbly portrayed

sergeant is an awesome brute with a voice that could shatter the sound barrier: he is a racist and a sexist whose only aim is to humiliate hismen. Recent revelations prove that he is no fiction.

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Full Metal Jacket was made in England, where Kubrick had lived in exile since Lolita. He had become a virtual recluse - who can blame him? But one of the reasons for this self-immurement was his very understandable dislike of air travel.

The years in England were not wasted. They saw the incubation of what was to be Stanley Kuhrick's last film, the oddly titled Eyes Wide Shut, for which we shall have to wait until July to pass judgement. Whatand through, unmistakably original. The master who did not live to see 2001 will be remembered that month. with this posthumous birthday present to his devoted fans.

Stanley Kubrick, film director, producer and scripturiter: born New York 26 July 1928; married three times (three daughters); died Childwickbury, Hertfordshire 7 March 1999.

Dr Alexander Sherlock

ALEXANDER SHERLOCK represented the former South-West Essex constituency in the European Parliament from 1979 until 1989. He was known in particular for his wit and the breadth of his scientific knowledge. Two ills he attempted to cure at Strasbourg were costly bureaucracy and verbal incontinence, using blunt language isuch as "cretins" for interrupters) that might have caused him trouble had he ever been a Westminster MP.

As a European Democratic Group MEP. Sherlock was more successful in his official duties as front-bench spokesman on the environment and in the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection, Whether speaking on budgets, hazardous waste, pollution in general or the quality of beers and wines, he could be relied upon to get quickly to the heart of the matter.

In a debate on dumping at sea (10 June 1986), he contended that the Rhine and the Meuse accounted for "well in excess of 20 times the



highest emission that could ever be made by the United Kingdom into the North Sea alone". Sherlock

I would say that the dirty man of Europe is collectively a responsibility of those potentially beautiful but fifthy rivers.

Second, disposal in this way looks upon the environment as if it were divisible. The environment is indivisible.

One cannot protect part of it without increased pressure on land disposal sites. I invite those select few who remain here for these debates to start remain here for these decates to start looking at the disposal sites in their backyard and say what we are going to do with it all? There is a lot of stuff, from doctors' gloves all the way down to sewage sludge. You may turn your back on that every morning but it has been one of the problems of Homo scipiens all of the time.

Educated at Magdalen College School, Oxford, and Stowmarket Grammar School. Sherlock achieved his MB BS Honours degree at the London Hospital and, while a flight lieutenant in the RAF, researched airsickness.

As a general practitioner in Felixstowe from 1948 until 1979, he worked with the consequences of such disasters as the East Coast flood of 31 January 1953 that claimed 39 lives in the town. He himself became a casualty when called to an explosion that killed three men at Felixstowe gasworks in 1956. He was caught in a second blast and suffered

severe leg injuries. He found relaxation in legal stud- Suffolk 18 February 1999.

ies and, in 1961, was called to the Bar | AS HOLLYWOOD phenomena go, He applied his various skills as as- the singing cowboys was a comparsistant deputy coroner for St Pancras in 1971 and 1972. He was also Suffolk county surgeon for the St John Ambulance Brigade, a member of the former Felixstowe Urban District Council, of East Suffolk County Council and Harwich Harbour Conservancy Board (now Harwich Haven Authority) and had active

roles in Rotary and Freemasonry. After leaving the European Parliament, Sherlock continued to live at Felixstowe, where he loved to work in his garden.

Alexander Sherlock, medical practitioner, barrister and politician: born Coventry, Warwickshire 14 February 1922: called to the Bar, Gray's Inn 1961; MEP (Conservative) for South-West Essex 1979-89; CBE 1989; married 1945 Peggy Scarff (died 1975; one son, two daughters), 1976 Eileen Hall (one stepdaughter); died Felixstowe,

Eddie Dean

atively short-lived one; they made their first appearance a few years after the advent of talkies and had all but disappeared two decades later.

Cowboy songs had been a sheetmusic staple since the turn of the century and in 1925 a genuine Texas cowboy, Carl T. Sprague, enjoyed sales of nearly a million copies with his "When the Work's All Done This Fall", but it was the movies that would most successfully bring together music and the Old West.

John Wayne is usually cited as the first on-screen singing cowboy, struggling to bring to life the character of Singin' Sandy in Riders of Destiny (1933) and setting the basic premiss for each of the musical horse operas that were to follow: white-stetsoned good guy rides into town, overcomes adversity and resident bad guy whilst carrying a tune and winning the girl.

By the decade's end, Wayne had been succeeded by a string of others, two of whom, Gene Autry and Roy Rogers, proved amongst the biggest box-office draws of the era. If Eddie Dean never quite made it into that league, he can lay claim to having been the finest vocalist in the genre, a talent that gained him the nickname "The Golden Voice".

He was born Edgar Dean Glosup, the seventh son of a seventh son of a seventh son, in Posey, Texas, His schoolteacher father instilled in him a love of singing and he began his career performing gospel music, first with the Vaughan and then the Stamps Quartets. He eventually joined his brother Jimmy in Chicago, where they worked as a duet wrote and performed the numbers California 4 March 1999.



Dean: 'The Golden Voice' Kobol

team on the famous WLS National Barn Dance before moving on to station WNAX which broadcast out of Yankton, South Dakota.

In 1934 and 1935 they cut a series of duets for ARC and Decca, though none were particularly successful. A return to Chicago saw the pair get involved in radio soap opera until, in 1937, they headed south-west to California. Supporting roles in the films of both Ken Maynard and Gene Autry quickly followed, as did radio work with the hillbilly

comedienne Judy Canova. From 1946, Dean received top billing on a series of some 20 lowbudget films made for the PRC studio, starting with The Harmony Trail. Showcases for Bill Crespinel's new colour film process, Cinecolor, they were among the first colour movies of their type. Starring alongside leading ladies like Shirley Patterson and Jennifer Holt, Dean both

featured in these largely forgotten pictures. They included Colorado Serenade and The Caravan Trail (both 1946), West To Glory (1947) and The Hawk of Powder River (1948). He often found himself accompanied by the western harmony group Andy Parker and the Plainsmen.

In 1948, the year of his last PRC film, Dean enjoyed his greatest success as a songwriter when his fellow singing cowboy Jimmy Wakely took "One Has My Name, the Other Has My Heart" to the top of both the pop and country charts. Co-written by Dean with his wife, "Dearest", and a fellow tunesmith, Hal Blair, il proved an early and durable example of the "cheatin" song and was covered magnificently by Jerry Lee Lewis in 1969.

Over the years Dean recorded for a number of record labels including Decca, Majestic, Mercury, Crystal, Sage and Sand, Shasta towned by Jimmy Wakely) and Capitol. If few of his own recordings charted, the superb "On the Banks of the Sunny San Juan" (1941) and his "I Dreamed of a Hillbilly Heaven"

(1955) remain classics. Dean later became a mainstay of the western festivals that proliferate throughout the south-western United States and in 1993 was inducted into the Cowboy Hall of Fame, hisvoice still a reportedly rich and sup-ple instrument into its ninth decade

Edgar Dean Glosup (Eddie Dean). singer, songwriter, actor born Posey, Texas 9 July 1907; married 1931 Lorene Donnelly (one son, one daughter); died Newholk

The Emir of Bahrain

contained some errors, writes Manstead, more than 90 per cent of them are the indigenous Arab people of Bahrain, known as Baharnah. They jority of the 40 members of the

soor Al-Jamri. The Shia in Bahrain Personal Column (1960) by Sir instead there are only a handful. are not migrants from Iran. In- Charles Belgrave, who administered

Bahrain between 1926 and 1957. Second, it is not true that the ma-

Third, your writer explains the current political crisis in terms of . The obituary photograph was not frustrated children committing of Sheikh Isa, but of his son, and arson. He probably does not know successor as Emir, Sheikh Hamad. have inhabited Bahrain for more Shura Council appointed by the about the series of petitions since We apologise for the error.

than 3,000 years and speak only Ara- Emir in 1993 and then in 1996-97 were 1992 calling for the restoration of par-Bahrain [by Adel Darwish, 8 March] bic. They are described - amongst made up from the elected members liament. These were sponsored by many references - in the book of the 1973-75 National Assembly; all sections of Bahrain society, not only the Shia. They preceded riots

and any stone throwing.

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Joe DiMaggio

BASEBALL IS a sport which reveres its statistics, one in which numbers can transcend simple arithmetic to become a catechism of faith. For the believer, 406 signifies only one thing - Ted Williams's average in 1941, the last time anyone batted over 400 for a season. Henceforth, 70 will be forever shorthand for Mark McGwire's single season home run regard. Or take 2,632, the number of consecutive games played by Cal Ripken Jnr between 1982 and 1998, almost certainly never to be surpassed. And then there is 56. For the uninitiated, the figure is no more than part of the seven times table. For the baseball fan, however, it summons up at once Joe DiMaggio's hitting streak between mid-May and mid-July 1941, a record which also may never be broken.

Ripken, Williams, McGwire: all of them, like DiMaggio, titanic players, pre-sent or future Hall of Famers and as such guaranteed eternal veneration at baseball's temple at Cooperstown in upstate New York. But DiMaggio was something more. Once a decade or so American sport throws up a figure who helps define a generation: Babe Ruth of course, Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Joe Louis, and today Michael Jordan. Jee DiMaggio unarguably belongs in company. For his baseball prowess with the New York Yankees, he was known as "Joltin" Joe" or - a title which better captures his grace and fluency as a player - "The Yankee Clipper". But for a couple of decades, either side of 1950, his fame and popularity exceeded that of kings and presidents.

His marriage to Marilyn Monroe ranks up with the Lindbergh kidnapping and the O.J. Simpson case as a celebrity event for the ages. Singlehandedly Joe DiMaggio rescued the reputation of Italo-Americans from the depths to which Al Capone and his ilk had dragged it. After his retirement in 1951 his legend only grew. Ernest Hemingway used him as a symbol in The Old Man and the Sea. He became spokesman for a product, Mr Coffee, which became part of the national vocabulary. Paul Simon referred tahim in the theme song from the hit Sin The Graduate, in lines which became a catchobrase in faraway countries where baseball was unknown: "Where have you gone Joe DiMaggio? / A nation turns its lonely eyes to you ... But Joltin' Joe' has left and gone away . . . "

Until the end, he was one of America's untouchables, a modest and unassuming man who occupied the function of secular saint, who would occasionally emerge from his Florida home to participate in a great baseball occasion. I saw him only once in the flesh, a slowmoving figure, his hair crinkly silver, on the night in September 1995 at Campden Yards in Baltimore when Ripken broke the previous consecutive games record. It had been previously held by the-great Lou Gehrig, with whom DiMaggio had played in the Yankee lineup of the late 1930s. He made a brief speech, linking baseball's past and pres at. On a moving night, it was the most moving moment.

Joseph Paul Duma: the eighth of nine children, to Joseph and Rosalia DiMaggio, immigrants from Sicily who had settled in California. It was a baseball family, not only Joe but his brothers Vince and Dominic would also become major league players (though the family claimed its finest ballplayer was another brother, Tom, who instead became a crab fisherman like his father). In time-honoured tradition. Joe learnt the rudiments of the game in the sandlots, before becoming an outstanding player at San Francisco Junior High School - even though there was no money to buy him a proper uniform.

On the recommendation of his brother Vince, he started with the city's minor league team, the San Francisco Seals in 1932, at the age of 17. His tal-I was immediately apparent. His fielding might have been erratic, but he hit as sweetly as an angel. Within two years, he was snapped up by the most famous and successful team in baseball just nine mouths

BIRTHS,

MARRIAGES

& DEATHS

IN MEMORIAM

MANSFIELD: Peter. On your third anniversary, I love and miss you more than ever. Tha you for all your help over the last year, Luis.

Announcements for BIRTHS.

MARRIAGES & DEATHS

(Births, Adoptions, Mar-

riages, Deaths, Memorial

services, Wedding anniver-

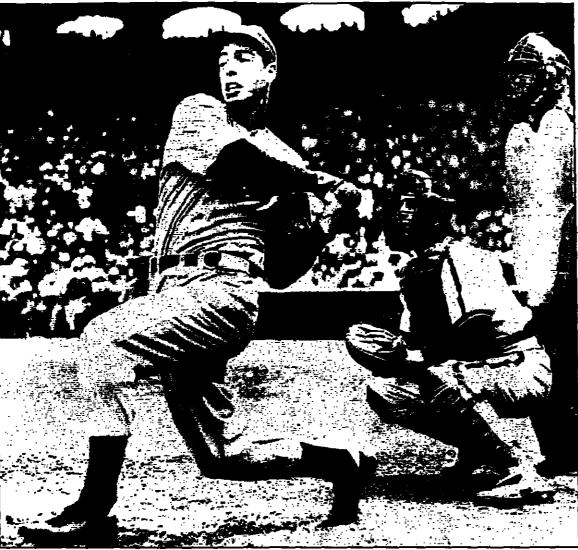
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'The Yankee Clipper': DiMaggio was a statistical immortal

That year, though DiMaggio was suffering serious knee problems, the Yankees acquired his services for \$25,000 and five players, on the understanding that for two more years DiMaggio would remain with the Seals, honing his skills and gaining experience. By the time he moved to New York and the big time for the 1936 season, the shy but sublimely self-confident newcomer was the most trumpeted rookie since the First World War. He did not disappoint.

In his first year, despite a nagging foot injury, the young centrefielder hit .323, and impressed not only with the bat but also for his vastly improved fielding, highlighted by a sensational catch in the Yankee's successful World Series campaign that year. In 1939 he set a career hitting mark of .381, and won the first of two successive American League batting titles. At the plate, he combined power and style, a majestic figure who regularly exceeded 30 home runs a season. Before he arrived, the Yankees had hit a barren spot; during his first seven years, they won the series five times. In 1941 occurred the feat which made him a statistical immortal.

The season had begun, by his standards, appallingly: a batting average of in 1946, normal service was resumed. .177, in what DiMaggio called "the worst



DiMaggio's marriage to Marilyn Monroe was doomed. It lasted

slump of my life - I looked terrible. The harder you try, the worse it gets." Then everything changed. On 15 May he began to hit – and did so in every game until 17 July Hitting a baseball safely is famously difficult: the best hitters manage it only three out of 10 times. Yet DiMaggio managed at least one hit in 56 games without a break. The previous mark of 44 had stood for 42 years, and DiMaggio's new record has not even been approached in more than half a century.

That year he won his second Most Valuable Player award. Willowy and darkly handsome, the Yankees' idol had become a figure in New York society, voted one of the 10 best-dressed men in the United States. In 1939 he married Dorothy Arnold, a Hollywood starlet, who gave him a son, Joe DiMaggio III.

As with so many of his generation, DiMaggio's career was interrupted by the Second World War. He volunteered for service in February 1943, giving up his \$43,500 salary for \$50 a month as a private, serving in an air-force physical training programme. The interruption cost him three seasons, and perhaps a chance of cracking some of baseus: 's other records. But, when he reappeared

In 1949, DiMaggio became baseball's first \$100,000-a-vear man. That year he missed two months with a damaged heel before returning to face the allconquering Boston Red Sox. DiMaggio belted four home runs in three games. and an epic season ended with the Yankees catching the Sox for the AL championship, and going on to defeat the Brooklyn Dodgers in the World Series. 1 October 1949 was Joe DiMaggio Day at Yankee Stadium, when a man whose comeback had made him a national hero told 70,000 fans. "I want to thank the Good Lord for making me a Yankee." Never, before or since, had baseball been more popular. Adulation could not, however, erase

the discomfort of constant bodily pain. During another shortened season in 1950, he none the less managed to hit .301, and that year, as each year between 1949 and 1953, New York again won the World Series. But DiMaggio had had enough. On 11 December 1951, after a final season disrupted by injury the Yankee Clipper announced his retirement.

As a player he had been a loner, liked and respected but never one for nights of hell-raising with his team mates. In the Yankee centrefield he was succeeded by Mickey Mantie, an authentic hell-raiser and linchpin of yet another generation of championship teams. DiMaggio was meanwhile fated to a sporting afterlife of permanent celebrity.

His marriage to Dorothy Arnold had broken up in 1944 when he was in the military. In the early 1950s he met a rising and stunningly attractive young actress named Marilyn Monroe. After a whirlwind romance, they were married in 1954. The union was doomed from the outset; the retiring and private superstar of the sports arena could not cope with the synthetic, brash and intrusive world of Hollywood, and was jealous of the endless attention lavished upon his wife. After only nine months they were divorced. But the couple remained close. DiMaggio helped arrange medical treatment for Marilyn as her life disintegrated. When she died in 1962, it was he who organised her funeral. He blamed the Kennedy brothers, Jack and Bobby, each of them her lover, for has-

tening her death. Years later, when he

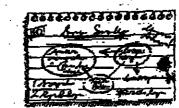
met the then Senator Bobby Kennedy

at a baseball function, DiMaggio refusd

ven to shake RFK's proffered hand Thereafter he faded from the public limelight. But his name remained among the most instantly recognisable in America. He devoted himself to philanthropy and charities, including the Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood, Florida. With the Yankees he kept in touch, throwing out the traditional first ball each season's opening day at Yankee Stadium, and, whenever the club reached the World Series, becoming if possible - more dignified with every passing year But it is as a player he will be above all remembered, one of the finest in history and synonymous with baseball's truly golden age.

RUPERT CORNWELL

Joseph Paul DiMaggio, baseball player: born Martinez, California 25 November 1914; married 1939 Dorothy Arnold (one son; marriage dissolved 1944), 1954 Marilyn Monroe (marriage dissolved 1954); died Hollywood, Florida 8 March 1999.



EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL NOTES

TONY DODD

Animal surgeons from outer space

ANIMALS COME very high winning documentary, A disturbance around them, up the British agenda. We Stronge Harvest, was broad-this is unlikely. love our pets, and we are sentimental about cute and cuddly farmyard animals. So it is surprising that we have made so little of a phenomenon involving attacks on our domestic and wild animals by an unknown and apparently

insatiable predator. Cows, horses, sheep, pigs, cats, deer, badgers, foxes and even mice are being systematically butchered in a manner that appears, at first sight, to be ritualistic except that the method of carrying out the mutilation seems to be way ahead of any technology known to man.

The corpses are not the messy gory savaged remains of a natural predator kill. They are neat, clinically tidy, with a total blood loss from the animal yet without any signs of blood loss at the site of the wound or on the ground nearby; further; an astonishing catalogue of surgical procedures has been appear to have been sealed or cauterised. Sometimes the animal seems to have been sedated, and there is usually no sign of disturbance, not even the animal's own

footprints, around the scene. These strange deaths have been occurring not only in Britain, but all over the world. The only major study of them has been carried out in America, where an Emmy-mote places, with no signs of line, 11 March, £16.99)

cast in 1980. It was made by Linda Moulton Howe, a respected journalist, who started her investigations when she heard of a few bizarre animal deaths. She surmised that the mutilations might be part of a secret government research programme, possihly monitoring pollution and contamination caused by radiation leak or accidental poison release. She was

government cover-un. Instead, she came to realise that although the US government was aware of the deaths, it was not responsible for them. She reached the conclusion that the deaths are the work of alien visitors to this planet, who are carrying out medical experiments on

expecting to unmask a

animai organs. How can anyone be sure that these deaths are not the work of vandals or animals? Pathology reports in the US carried out on them. Internal have shown that the inciorgans have been removed sions in the flesh have been through small cuts, which made with high heat, which cooked the haemoglobin at the edge of the wound. The cuts have a hardened edge, not consistent with the type of lasers we use today and besides, if lasers were being used, we would be looking at very sophisticated vandals indeed, able to transport power generators to the scenes of the deaths. As the

The mutilations come in clusters, either with individual cases in the same area over a matter of weeks or, more spectacularly, with several animal corpses being found together. Often these are animals which would never be together in nature such as sheep and foxes.

After a spate of sheep deaths in an area of the north-east coast of England, farmers rigged up infra-red cameras triggered by any movement in a particular field. They were positioned so that sheep moving about in the night would not fire them, but if anything taller than a sheep entered the field the cameras would record it. The following morning, they found another mutilated lamb, with the familiar neat holes in its body, the organs removed. But, when the films were developed, they showed only small white clouds on

The one common factor with the mutilations is reports from farmers of strange glowing lights hovering in the air over the fields the night before. This suggests an explanation: the "night surgeons" are neither human nor animal, but come from one of the billions of stars in the countless galaxies beyond our Solar System.

Tony Dodd is the author of 'Alien Investigator' (Head-

Peaceful assembly was not unlawful

bodies are often found in re-

A PEACEFUL assembly on the public highway, which did not create an obstruction and did not constitute or cause a public nuisance, was not necessarily a trespassory assembly within the terms of section 14 of the

Public Order Act 1986. The House of Lords (Lord Slynn and Lord Hope dissenting) allowed the appellants' appeals against their convictions of taking part in a trespassory assembly.

The appellants were among 21 people on the roadside verge of the A344, adjacent to the perimeter fence of the monument at Stonehenge, some of whom had banners bearing such legends as "Free Stonehenge". They were arrested for taking part in a trespassory assembly contrary to section 14B(2) of the Public Order Act 1986, in breach of an order made under section 14A(5) of the 1986 Act. Section 14A(5) provided:

An order prohibiting the holding of trespassory assemblies operates to prohibit any assembly which (a) is held on land to which the public has no right of access or only a limit-ed right of access, and (b) takes place in prohibited circumstances, that is to say without the program. place in prohibited circumstances, that is to say, without the permis-sion of the occupier of the land or so as to exceed the limits of any permission of his or the limits of the public's right of access.

The appellants were convicted in the magistrates' court, but successfully appealed. against conviction in the Crown Court. The prosecution appealed to the Divisional Court by way of case stated, and the convictions were reinstated. The court held that a peaceful assembly on the public highway exceeded the limits of the public's right of access within the

TUESDAY LAW REPORT

9 MARCH 1999

Director of Public Prosecutions v Jones and another

House of Lords (Lord Irvine of Lairg, Lord Chancellor, Lord Slynn of Hadley, Lord Hope of Craighead, Lord Clyde and Lord

Hutton) 4 March 1999

meaning of section 14A(5) of the 1986 Act. Edward Fitzgerald QC and Kier

Starmer (Liberty, and Douglas & Partners) for the appellants; Victor Temple QC and Michael Butt (Crown Prosecution Service) for the respondent.

Lord Irvine LC said that it had been assumed for the purposes of the hearing in the Divisional Court that the grass verge constituted part of the public highway, and that the group was peaceful and did not constitute an obstruction or a public nuisance.

The central issue in the case turned on two interrelated questions: what were the "limits" of the public's right of access to the public highway at common law; and what was the particular purpose for which the public had a right to use the public highway.
The basis of the Divisional

Court's decision, in broad terms, was the proposition that

the public's right of access to the public highway was limited to the right to pass and repass, and to do anything incidental or ancillary to that right. Peaceful assembly was not incidental to the right to pass and repass.

However, the law today should recognise that the public highway was a public place, on which all manner of reasonable activities might go on. Provided those activities were reasonable, did not involve the commission of a public or private nuisance, and did not amount to an obstruction of the highway unreasonably impeding the primary right of the general public to pass and repass, they should not constitute a trespass. Subject to those qualifications, therefore, there would be a public right of peaceful assembly on the public highway.

Lord Clyde said that a peaceful assembly which did not obstruct the highway did not necessarily constitute a trespassory assembly so as to constitute an offence where an order under section 14A(5) of the 1986 Act was in force.

If the purpose of the activi-ty in question became the predominant purpose of the occupation of the highway, or if the occupation became more than reasonably transitional in terms of either time or space, then it might come to exceed

the right to use the highway. Lord Hutton said that a peaceful and non-obstructive public assembly on a highway could, but would not always, constitute a reasonable user of the highway, and thus not be

a trespass.

KATE O'HANLON. Barrister

British Legion, 59; Mr Bill Beaumont, sports commentator, 47; Mr Andrew Bennett MP, 60; Dr Michael Brock, former Warden, St George's House, Windson Castle, 79: M André Courrèges, couturier, 76; Sir Roualeyn Cumming-Bruce, former Lord of Appeal, 87; Mr Bobby Fischer, chess player, 56; Mr John Golding, former trade union leader, 68; Maj-Gen John Groom, former director, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 70; Mr Neil Hamilton, former MP, 50; Professor Sir Donald Harrison, laryngologist. 74; Dr Thomas Johnston, former Principal, Heriot-Watt

University, 72; Sir Norman

Lindop, chemist and educa-

tional administrator, 78; Sir

BIRTHDAYS

Air Marshal Sir Roger

Austin, President, Royal

Nicholas Monck, former Permanent Secretary, Department of Employment, 64: Sir Donald Rattee, High Court judge, 62; Professor Kenneth Robinson, former Vice-Chancellor, University of Hong Kong, 85; Mr Howard Shelley, pianist and conductor, 49; Mr Mickey Spillane, novelist, 81; Lord Thurlow, former Governor of the Bahamas, 87; Professor Sir David Weatherall, haematologist, 66; Mr David Willetts MP, 43.

GAZETTE

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky, composer, 1839; Ernest Bevin, statesman, 1881; Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, astronaut, 1934. Deaths: David Rizzio, musician and secretary to Mary. Queen of Scots, murdered

1566; George Burns (Nathan Birnbaum), comedian, 1996. On this day: Pope Gregory VII declared all married RC priests to be excommunicated. 1074; Louis-Philippe of France founded the French Foreign Legion, 1831. Today is the Feast Day of St Bosa, St Catharine of Bologna, St. Dominic Savio, St Frances of Rome, St Gregory of Nyssa and St Pacianus.

LECTURES

British Museum: Helen Glaister, "Representations of Women in China", 11.30am; Lesley Fitton, "Women in Bronze Age Greece", 2.30pm. Zoological Society, London NW1: Professor J. Altman and Professor I, Newton: "Only Time Will Tell: the value of long-term studies". 5.30nm.

ROYAL **ENGAGEMENTS**

The Queen holds an investi-ture at Buckingham Palace. The Duke of Edinburgh, President, chairs a meeting of the Royal Mint Advisory Committee at Buckingham Palace and, as Patron, attends the London Federation of Clubs for Young People Lunch at Tallow Chandlers' Hall, London EC4. The Duke of Kent, President, Royal United Services Institute for Defenc Studies, addresses the Nato 50th Anniversary Conference at the Banqueting House, London SW1; and attends the RUSI 50th Anniversary Con-ference Dinner, Lancaster House, London SWL

CHANGING OF THE GUARD The Household Cavalry

Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

MALCOLM ROE, of Hove, has been injuncted by the council to stop carding. Any more of it, and he's in the jug. Mr Roe's crime is neither, as Johnson defined it. to "comminute wool with a piece of wood" not in Thomas Shelton's 1612 phrase, to "be corded and purged of certain base things' On the contrary. In a

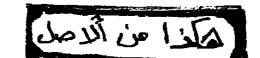
WORDS **CHRISTOPHER** HAWTREE

card, v.

usage absent from the OED, he put tarts' adverts in telephone kiosks: such droll invitations as those in which the phrase bound over has

nothing to do with keeping the peace. It's all a question of definition. Others still card: I dialled 01273 XXXXXX and asked a startled, laughing woman if she was envious of the sums now commanded by one who has done more than cord in a kiosk - Monica Lewinsky: "No, not at all - good luck

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What a woman's got to do

Pushy, ballsy, mumsy, frilly, frumpy: the attributes required by women to succeed in the workplace. That's what surveys

say, so it must be true, mustn't it? By Ann Treneman

t's a confusing time for women who want to get ahead at work. "Pushy Women Don't Make it to the Top' screams one headline. Evidently, to get promoted women need to be "cheerful, self-confident, moth-erly". This has me searching through the cupboard for my apron. But no sooner have I knotted the ties than I read something completely different. "If you really want to be successful, you have to adopt a masculine approach of being pushy and dominant. In short, you have to walk on dead bodies," says the next survey. Right. Apron off. Armour on. Then comes yet another survey on the subject, by the Industrial Society. "The writing is on the wall for the macho managers," comments one

Well, all I can say is that it is nice to get out of that armour. At least I now know why I always carry around such a huge handbag. It's the only way to cope with having to change my identity so regularly. What a choice: pushy, ballsy, mumsy, frilly, frumpy! But, handbag aside, what really is going on here? Why are there so many surveys, with so many different results? Truly, do any of them really know what they are talking about?

It's a subject we cannot get enough of. The experts say that we have become obsessed with it for the simple reason that more women are at work than ever before, and more of them want careers, not just jobs. This is the Sexual Revolution at the Coffee Machine and, even though it's been going on for some time, we are still in chaos over what it all means.

For years we've been saying that everyone is equal, and that it was only a matter of time before this was reflected at work. But now we have had to admit that we

We have finally given ourselves permission to look at how men and women are different," says Liz Cook, a senior consultant for the Industrial Society. "We have had 20 years of equality legislation and affirmative action, and it hasn't really worked. What we've really got is that men and women are different and unequal

This has thrown up a whole new set of questions. What are female personality traits? How do they fit into the male-dominated workplace? Should women change? Should the workplace change?

"Maybe," says Ms Cook, "by nature women aren't designed to be in the boardroom as it is today. That doesn't mean they won't be in tomorrow's, though."

But tomorrow isn't in this year's budget planning session, and firms insist that they want more women at the top today, especially now that such female-friendly skills as listening and mentoring are all the rage. But the reality is that only I per cent of executive directors on corporate boards are women. "The figures on this are pathetic." says Sue Vinnicombe, of Cranfield School

of Management. Clearly, the situation is grave. Everyone agrees that something must be done - and so far that something has been to conduct a survey (make that a dozen). Press reports present each report as saying something completely different from the one before. But what is behind the headlines? Surely there must be some wisdom in all this survey lunacy? I decided to deconstruct the



Full armour or the mumsy oven glove? You've got to take those tough decisions, surveys say

Take the Industrial Society survey that concluded that the days of the macho manager are numbered. It turns out that this survey did not talk to managers at all. Instead it concentrated on the views of what it calls "followers", but what you and I would

call underlings. Not surprisingly, these underlings liked in their leaders such qualities as honesty, trust and humility. It seems that these are seen as female attributes; ergo, the conclusion that macho is out, female is in. Sounds great. The only problem is that this is really just a report on what employees wish were true. It has nothing

to do with reality. That is probably just as well. At least, that

most recent three surveys, and the results is the only possible conclusion that can be drawn when looking at the results of another survey, conducted by Tuvia Melamed, a psychologist. It paints the real workplace as being awash with macho managers, who eat tosterone for breakfast and never talk when they can shout. Here the only successful woman is nothing short of a dominatrix. Dr Melamed is embarrassed about this. He realises that his results are politi-

cally incorrect. But the successful women did say they really had to be more male than the men," he said. "They were very, very tough and had to forget the caring, sensitive side of their personalities. Many comnared themselves to Margaret Thatcher."

We don't want even to think about where that handbag will take us - and so on to the details of the survey. It was carried out over a period of four years at Anglia Business School. It examined personality profiles of 1,243 British managers (949 men, 294 women) using something called the 16PF form 5. They were compared with the results

obtained from "normal" British adults. The results show that female managers' scores were closer to those of their male counterparts than those in the comparison group. When you look closely at the numbers, though, you can see that although there is a pattern, it really does not seem to be of the kind of proportions that merit comparison with Margaret Thatcher. Dr Melamed points out that there were also follow-up interviews. He assures me that he is not mis-

taken. "I wish that it were different." he says. Well it can be. That is what is so great



about the world of surveys. Enter Peter York, style guru and management consultant. He is the man behind the survey that says that pushy women don't get to the top. His company, SRU Consultancy, conducted in-depth interviews with 16 women at the very top of their professions. It's a small survey but, as he points out, it's a small base group. But can it really be true? Do we need to don aprons and stop being pushy if we want to get to the top? What does it all mean? I wouldn't admit to being pushy (God forbid) but I did want to get straight to the point. Me: Should I cease to be bossy, then?

Mr York: Well, how bossy are you? Me: You aren't answering my question. Mr York: It's quite a difficult one. What we were saying was very simple. This small

group of women do not manifest the style that people would expect... Me: Should I be mumsy and kind, then? Mr York: We were not saying, be mumsy and kind. There are a variety of manocuvres that women have used to get ahead that now look redundant and archaic. One was to be a pretend man. Another was to be the office

vamp. That's very date-stamped. Me: What about the survey by Dr Melamed that says that we have to be pretend men?

Mr York: I would have liked to have seen the data. I think the fundamental thing is that they are talking about a different set of human beings.

Me: Can you see why women like me are confused?

Mr York: I can. But I do think you should

What is really needed is a survey of the surveys. It is clear that these three are different mainly because of whom they interviewed, and what means they used. But they were not comparing apples and oranges as much as, perhaps, apples, pomegranates and pommes de terre.

It is possible that all three are essentially true: followers want leaders who are not macho, female managers act tougher in a male-dominated company, and women who have shattered the glass ceiling can no longer remember possessing even a shard's

Mr York suspects that many of the women at the very top are in denial, or have just forgotten about their early struggles. And he points out that they see the women ten years younger as being very different to themselves. "They see them as narrower, more obsessive and so concerned about career as to miss the substance of what they are doing. The younger women want a lot of it all. They want to be part of a wolf pair. They are fantastically successful, and they

want their partner to be, too." I panic at the thought of having to find a wolf costume as well as an apron and all that dominatrix gear. It's a relief to call Sheila Wild, of the Equal Opportunities Commission, who says that who gets ahead depends as much on the structure of the workplace as an y individual traits. "Oh, ignore the advice," she says. "Everyone has their own personality and temperament and you can only do what you can do. In some workplaces being mumsy works; in others it's more mas-

culine. There are no hard-and-fast rules," She says that more and more women are voting with their feet anyway and setting up their own businesses. I'm sure there will be

THE JOYS OF MODERN

LIFE

36. WOOD FIRES BY JACK O'SULLIVAN

[AM the urban equivalent of a stubble burner. You will know my street on a bitter winter's day. It is the one with a whiff of wood smoke, reminiscent of a Cotswold village. Catch the smell and imagine drinking pints of Speckled Hen in old pubs while watching the rugby on Saturday afternoons. Come inside and you will find a roaring log fire. If the chimney hasn't been swept lately, there will be a smoky room that leaves your clothes smelling as though you spent the evening singing "Kumbaya" with the happy clappies. You will certainly forget that you are in inner-city Hackney, where the only illicit smoke you normally encounter is dope.

That's the trouble with real fires around here. You're not supposed to have them. You are meant to be satisfied with boring old smokeless fuel that comes in regulation-size lumps. In the heavily boundaried life of the city, sending your fumes over to your next-doorneighbours is considered as impolite as encouraging your tomeat to spray their front door step. Smokeless

of Car

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The poor man's Aga

fuel simply does not have that rural authenticity. essential for those of us who live in shoeboxes, but who imagine ourselves in a country pile. That fire is the poor man's Aga.

I caught the bug young. As a child of the three-day week in the early Seventies, I still pray for power cuts and fantasise about burnt sausages cooked over an open fire. My dad is another evangelist. As children, when we returned from Ireland on holidays and everyone else's car was stuffed with booze, he filled our boot with turf. Our street smelled like a sodden hamlet in the Aran Islands. Sadly, they don't sell turf here. In any case, I couldn't support the stripping out of the Irish bogs and all those spring flowers and heather. So wood

There are plenty of downsides to the illicit fire. Asthma, for example, and the endless trips to the petrol station log pile to fuel the little monster. However, the joys are many. Of course, it's illegal, but that is part of the attraction. A proper fire is a friend, better to look at than the telly. Who, with any. sense of romance, could resist lying on the floor in the dark beside the dying embers and that empty bottle of Jameson?

How to dress in Manchester, if you're a student

The way to spot Mancunians from a distance? They're the ones who look smart and strut. Unlike our chums at the university. By Cayte Williams











SO WHAT does the modern student wear? And with which anthropological tribes does he or she choose to identify? Ian has a sort of urban hippy image: long hair in pony-tail, necklace, jeans and trainers. David is more eccentric, while Robbie is immaculately dressed in polo-necks and jackets. Only Alistair has been in the sartorial wilderness – until now.

"We call him Uncle Alfie," says Tash, "on account of his corduroy trousers, oldfashioned leather jacket and wavy hair." But when he went clubbing last week, his friends hardly recognised him. Now his hair is blond and spiky, and the cords have been ditched in favour of combat trousers and a black T-shirt. He's even lost weight. "He looks much better," observes Leona, "but he still can't dance."

David and Robbie are both rather dapper. "Style comes

from within, but clothes make you look better," waxes Robbie, who has somehow been influenced by Roger Moore. "I love that classic, early Seventies James Bond look. I hate labels that are in your face. Firetrap and Quicksilver are pretty cool brands, but I don't think much of Ralph Lauren because everyone's got that little polo shirt on down the pub." In fact he spends nearly twice as much on clothes as any of the girls.

When it comes to glam, David's got it sussed. University will be the only time in my life when I will be allowed to experiment with my hair," says the man who loves glitter. When he first came to college he was painfully shy, so as soon as he got the hang of being extrovert it went to his head. "My hair's not really about expressing myself," he explains. "It's more the fact

THIS STUDENT

LIFE

SPRING TERM, MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

that I just get bored with having the same hairstyle so I just do something different and dye it another colour."

Youth culture is now about subtle differences, not tribal uniforms. The days of punks,

rockers and Brit Pop boys seem gone forever. "If a girl is wearing Kookai or Morgan you know she's pretty rich," explains David. "And then there are the rude boys with their Camper jackets, baggy jeans and caps. But none of it is really obvious.

"That Brit Pop thing was really pretentious. Now it's cool not to be influenced by any one trend." So does he enjoy dressing up? "I spend quite a lot on clothes and I've got a bit of a shoe fetish. I like laced, square-toed ones with a little bit of heel on them. I'm quite individual. I don't really care what others think " Ian reckons his almost waist-

length hair is less of a style statement, more of a dare. "I had a tragic basin haircut before I came to university," he says. "I've kept my hair long because my friends said. 'University is the only chance

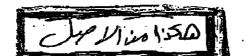
you'll get to grow it. When you get a job, you'll have to get it all chopped off.' So I've kept it. Now it's part of me." He's also hates designer

labels. "I bought an Yves Saint Laurent shirt for £80, and it's falling apart," he says indignantly, "and something similar from BhS which is still amazing." He reckons you can spot Mancunians a mile off. 'You can tell who's a student in this town because they're nearly always scruffy, and you can tell people who come from Manchester because they have this walk. It's like a strut."

Rosie and Tash don't seem to own a skirt between them and don't have the time or money to care about fashion. "Leona's got a gorgeous figure," says Rosie, "so she's more fashionable than either Tash or me. I don't wear skirts ever, and I don't wear heels. If I'm going to the pub I'll just wear what I

put on when I woke up. Clothes are just not the big deal that ... they used to be. If I had £100 to spend I'd shop in Warehouse or Oasis, but most of the time I'm in bargain shops."

"I'm always worried about my stomach," says Tash, patting her tummy under a padded jacket. She's just grateful that her tomboy look is back in style. "Clothes are less glamorous than they used to be when girls wore little tops. mini-skirts or pedal pushers to House and Garage clubs. I. ... never felt 100 per cent in them because there were no pockets and they weren't very useful. If I was tall and skinny I would wear more fluffy clothes. But now there's so much more of a drum 'n' bass scene in Manchester, combat trousers and trainers are fashionable again. And they're so much more practical." Prada and Gucci, eat your heart out.



Royal Ballet's faux pas

Dance Bites tries to build regional audiences for modern dance. But is it really working? By Nadine Meisner

doldrums, Royal Ballet are bristling with public optimism. They have a luxurious new home waiting for them in the redeveloped Royal Opera House; a go-getting American executive director. Michael Kaiser, famed for his nifty pas de deux work in raising collapsed ballet companies back on their feet; and New Labour status as reformed toffs, flinging open their doors to your average person on the street. Perhaps Kaiser is indeed so adept he can get money to pour out of taps. But he will also need to sort out the Royal Ballet's many other problems: their inaccessibility to most of the tax-paying country; their stuffy image; and the shortage of talent to

reograph the future's repertoire. Now in its sixth season, Dance Bites is the Royal Ballet's attempt to address these problems. Each year, for a fortnight, the company divides into two and performs in medium-sized theatres round the country. This replaces their previous, exorbitantly expensive touring to large cities, with full company, orchestra and stage sets. Dance Bites was also conceived as a cost-effective way of killing two birds with one stone: not only to travel outside London, but to encourage younger choreographers by showcasing their work. In the estimation of the company's administrative director, Anthony Russell-Roberts, it has been a success. In my estimation, it has been ineffectually implemented and counter-productive. Superficially, Dance Bites is the pluckily ingenious scheme of an organisation strapped for cash. And it is preferable to the earlier custom of flinging novice choreographers on to the grand Royal Opera House stage, to make their mistakes in a blaze of publicity. But from what I have seen, audiences for Dance Bites have dwindled. Past programmes have often featured work not ready to be shown to a paying public, while the glossy trappings of live music and stage design looked inappropriately extravagant. This present tour is stricter in choice of choreographers, and more sober in presentation. But I still doubt that it will win audiences to the cause of modern ballet.

This is because of a mismatch between the product and the consumer. Russeli-Roberts says: "It fald be an insult to regional ausonhisticated than in London," As someone from a village in Cumbria, I agree. Moreover, during the past few decades, the most avant-garde choreographers have regularly toured the regions. "We are aiming at a public who would appreciate new choreography, leavened with a masterwork like Ashton's Monoto-

fter years in the nes," he says. "We state clearly what , they move in eddying and interfacthe programmes are."

But the modern-minded audiences, who buy tickets to see Siobhan Davies, stay away from Dance Bites. What Dance Bites attracts are the blue-rinses and the ballet-pupil bun heads who expect recognisable classicism, technical bravura, and melody. They expect this because they see the name Royal Ballet.

True, the publicity says "Dance Bites" in bigger lettering, but that doesn't prevent individual theatres from plastering large "Royal Ballet on Tour" stickers across the posters. So the right audience doesn't come and the company's marketing has failed to redress this. Given that many of the towns have colleges and universities, where are the students?

I saw this year's two Dance

It's a mismatch of product and consumer: of experimental dance and a largely blue-rinse audience

Bites programmes in Northampton and Cambridge. In Northampton, the familiar item was a revival of David Bintley's Galanteries, a tastefully calibrated suite of dances to Mozart. In Cambridge, everything was overshadowed by Ashton's Monotones, as seamlessly serene, pared down and strange as its Satie music. Darcey Bussell's long, poised lines folded and stretched beautifully in the plastique of the second trio to Trois Gymnopedies.

Bussell led Mark Baldwin's Towards Poetry, performing a quirky pos de deux with Nigel Burley and a long solo that displayed her yawning jump. Her deliberate, challenging air of narcissism slotted into the piece's eccentric atmosphere, but what significance lay behind it all remained a secret between Baldwin and his composer, Julian Anderson.

William Tuckett's Love's Fool in which Luke Heydon's modern-day Cupid gives office romance a helping push, was entirely clear thanks to the programme note, although the overall effect was two-dimensional. Much of the movement concentrated on the feet, so it was frustrating that these were hidden from many by Cambridge's ap-

After Galanteries in Northamp-Marston's Tidelines was a shock. Choreography, design and music one, don't believe him. confront each other prismatically. Peter Sculthorpe's score superimposes layers, and mirrors reflect the dancers' silhouettes. Sometimes they just stand around, sometimes

ing patterns, echoing the back projection of coloured liquids.

Jonathan Cope and Chloe Davies perform an entrancing pas de deux of unexpected but beautiful lifts which ends the piece abruptly and inconsequentially as if Marston couldn't think of a way of rounding off. Ashley Page's trio Soft Underbelly went through the variations of combining one woman and two men fluently and unremarkably.

Michael Corder's Masquerade offered no surprises either, although it had an articulate freshness and exuberance, enhanced by Anthony Ward's ravishing acid-drop costumes. Using Stravinsky's suite from Pulcinella, Corders plotless dances retain a sense of the commedia dell'arte characters. This brings nice choreographic contrasts and allows Peter Abegglen and Mara Galeazzi to be bright and teasing as Harlequin and Columbine.

This year's Dance Bites focuses more on proven choreographers. But even established talents can produce misses. The task of watching experiments en masse can make muesli seem attractive. This heavyduty programming is best suited to a small, low-profile performing space where the duds can come and go discreetly. And the good news is that this will happen, with the Royal Opera House's new studio theatre. Gossip claims that this is the last

Dance Bites. Russell-Roberts says he doesn't yet know but if mediumscale touring is to continue, the Royal Ballet should take half a leaf from the English National Ballet's book. ENB's artistic director, Derek Deane believes in pragmatism. "I see them as an opportunity, actually, to increase audiences by reaching people who might not normally go to the bigger theatres, but who are prepared to go to smaller ones." Catchily entitled Tour de Force!, his two programmes, (starting later this month), reverse the Dance Bites balance by splicing familiar extracts with a dash of the new - in both cases provided by the compa-

With a smaller subsidy than the Royal Ballet, the ENB has tighter box-office considerations but Tour de Force! certainly attracts full houses. "I want to create audiences, not alienate them. You've got to mix and match programmes to entertain as well as challenge," is Deane's recipe. "Programmes of ballets they've never heard of are not going to get people in. You've got casion as a glorified choreographton, the radicalism of Cathy ic workshop." He denies that he is referring to Dance Bites but I. for

ny's Christopher Hampson

Dance Bites tours to Cornwall, High Wycombe, Dartford and Woking. Tour de Force! runs from 22



to play for

POP LYNDEN DAVID HALL BRIGHTON CENTRE

WHETHER playing mean blues or boogie on the guitar, or singing his own songs about carnal love, God or absent fathers, Lynden David Hall is excellent. With a repertoire like that, he would be garlanded with praise if he were a white American in the alternative country mould, and signed to an independent label called something like Dog Do. Instead, he's a black British soul act on EMI. Not only is his music written in a foreign language – that of American R'n'B - but he is also the latest in a long line of Brit-soulers who have had to deal with premature comparisons with the great, and usually, the dead, of the past. Despite releasing two killer singles from his superb début album of last year, Medicine 4 My Pain, Hall's success was still not assured the album was even repackaged after the first cover was deemed to be too dark.

This opening date of his first major national tour was so good. however, that he looks sure to prevail in the end. With a nifty four-piece band, two backing singers, and tunes from the album already familiar to most of the audience, Hall was brilliant from the very first note, yet just got better with each number. Though his niche is Nu Classic Soul in the manner of Maxwell, D'Angelo and Chico DeBarge, Hall is the equal of any of them.

He gains extra credibility from his musicianship - he wrote, produced or co-produced and performed almost everything on the album himself – and his lovegod credentials, which are substantial. Tall, rangy and shaven of head, Hall more than looks the part, but he's also sufficiently charming and goodhumoured not to threaten too many boyfriends. When he swaps his electric guitar for an acoustic, he also reveals a new persona, projecting an endearing vulnerability on songs such as the beautiful "Do Angels Cry" and "Crescent Moon". A wanderfully lubricious version of what should have been his big hit, "Sexy Cinderella", ended the in all Hall u fantastic. He could be the new Al Green. Whoops.

PHIL JOHNSON

To 18-19 March, when he plays London's Shepherd's Bush Empire (0171-771 2000). A version of this review appeared in later editions of yesterday's paper

You know when you've been tango'd

GIDON KREMER'S scholarly but passionate interpretations of the "new tango" music of Az or Piazzolla (1921-92) have been a runaway success. The CDs and tours appeal to a need for "light music" with intellectual depth; for "art music"

with emotional content. Tuesday's concert had a more classical, chamber-music ambience than the more gutsy Hommage a Piazzolla or El Tango (or the composer's own recordings). The evening began with the leader playing solo, followed by some trio pieces and then the full quartet. Yet despite the absence of piano and double bass, Kremer's colleagues generated a remarkable amount of rhythmic heat in "Adios Nonino" (which the composer's band,

CLASSICAL

TANGO! KREMERATA QUARTET QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL SOUTH BANK CENTRE LONDON

with violinist Fernando Suarez Paz, recorded on the Live in Wien album) and the beguiling "Milonga per Tre." This featured taut Lithuanian dancer, Egle Spokaite, thin as a whip in green culottes, spotlighted while the musicians played from the corners of the stage.

Argentine bandoneón player, Marcelo Nisinman, opened the second set with a heart-rending solo version of "Oblivion", immediately followed by a couple of duets with Kremer, sentimental con-

versations full of nostalgia for a collective memory nobody there could have possibly experienced. The dramatic "Jeanne y Paul" required Kremer to counter Nisinman's wheezy beast of an instrument with wild noises and percussive clicks from his guarneri.

Despite Kremer's declared passion for the music, one sensed he was having fun with the exaggerated emotions of Piazzolla's more cheesy back catalogue. Since nuevo tango = tango + tragedy + comedy + kilombo (whorehouse), as Piazzolla himself informed us on Zero Hour, this might be an example of cheap music ageing gracefully into a happy long after-life: what looked like nicotine stains turn out to be

For the final section of the concert, all five musicians took to the stage to perform Five Sensations for bandoneon and quartet, the stunning late 1980s collaboration commissioned by the Lincoln Center for the Kronos quartet, with Piazzolla himself. Kremerata's reading of this was faultless, but the star was Nisinman, an enigmatic half-smile playing around his lips as he coaxed chromatic impossibilities from the tangle of buttons and fingers at his left hand and lower throatier lines from the right, occasionally

The sensations of the five movements - "Asleep", "Lov-ing", "Auxiety", "Despair", and "Fear" - were countered by the

viola player.



Gidon Kremer

smiles and concentrated exexchanging some private joke pressions of pleasure on the by eye contact with the pretty faces of the audience in the packed hall. Mood swings. but no depression: Kremer's bitter-sweet solo melodies in "Despair" sailed over the bandoneon chords before the

lower strings entered for a glo-rious chorale, and "Fear" concluded the recital on an uptempo burst of energy. Superb intonation, dynamics and timing, plus the ensemble's easy virtuosity, made this feel like the last night of a tour, rather than the second.

And how exciting to hear an unamplified band sounding this good in the QEH acoustic - the internal balance of strings and bandoneón was a masterclass of musical mixing. For the encore, all six performers returned for Nisiaman's extramelodramatic arrangement of "Adios Nonino," with virtuosic solos from Kremer and dancer Spokaité, haunting the stage like a green, Giacometti ghost.

JOHN L WALTERS

The voice of the 19th century

IN WHAT sounds like a neoclassicist's manifesto, Goethe wrote that "only in limitation is mastery revealed, and law alone can give us freedom", so how he might have reacted to Hugo Wolf's ardently melodramatic setting of Mignon's famous "Kennst du das Land" is a matter for speculation. Like many other songs in Sathave evening's QEH recital, ocvoted to settings of lyrics from his novel Wilhelm Meisters Lehrjahre, it went far beyond the poet's narrow vision of the proper partnership of

words and music. Yet whatever the limits of his CLASSICAL

GOETHE WEEKEND QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL SOUTH BANK CENTRE LONDON

musical judgement, his famous vanity might well have been touched by the artistry shown in devotion to his texts, as performed by the soprano Solveig Kringelborn, the baritone Thomas Allen and the pianist Roger Vignoles, with Samuel West reading from the novel. If literature's function is to uncover hidden springs of feeling in its readers, then Schubert's

impassioned musical response to "Wer nie sein Brot mit Tranen", or Schumann's to "Heiss mich nicht reden", must count as important documents in their composer's own biographies.

With Schumann, especially, it was a case of richness of accompaniment, splendidly realised by Vignoles in the spread chords of the harpist's songs. As for richness of harmony, that belonged not just to Schubert, Schumann and Wolf, but also to Liszt. In his versions of "Über allen Gipfeln ist Ruh" and "Freudvoll und leidvoll", the floating tonality that in his

symphonic poems can sometimes lead to the impression of introductions to introductions. became a defuly controlled expressive tool of which even Goethe might have approved. But in many ways the laurels went to the settings by Carl Lowe, in his "Gutmann and Gutweib", the Bachian accompaniment brilliantly directed

breaks than Schubert's. The second instalment of the South Bank's Goethe: Life, Love and Music weekend

began with Beethoven's Eq- surely a necessary part of any mont overture, the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment agile and buoyant under Mark Elder's direction.

From pageantry, the mood changed to that of despair then consolation in the flowing lines of Brahm's Alto Rhopsody, the men of the Philharmonia Chorus quietly supporting the the extensive tale-telling to its nobly rendered vocal line of the punch line. And for singers, his version of "Erlkönig" must mezzo Jane Irwin. With the tenor Justin Lavensurely offer more dramatic

der the men returned towards the close of the second half, singing the "chorus mysticus" that sublimely ends Liszt's neglected A Faust Symphony,

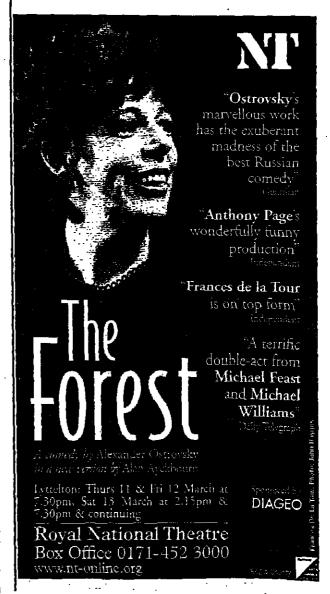
celebration of Goethe's unique achievement. Thanks to Elder's complete grasp of the work both in flesh and spirit, its longueurs were scarcely noticed. What impressed were the quality of playing, fine woodwind solos in the Gretchen movement, and fierce, Mephistophelean unison strings in the last

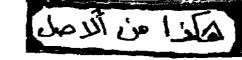
How revolutionary this piece must have seemed to its first listeners in the 1850s. To paraphrase Stravinsky on another subject, surely a solar plexus of 19th-century music. NICHOLAS WILLIAMS

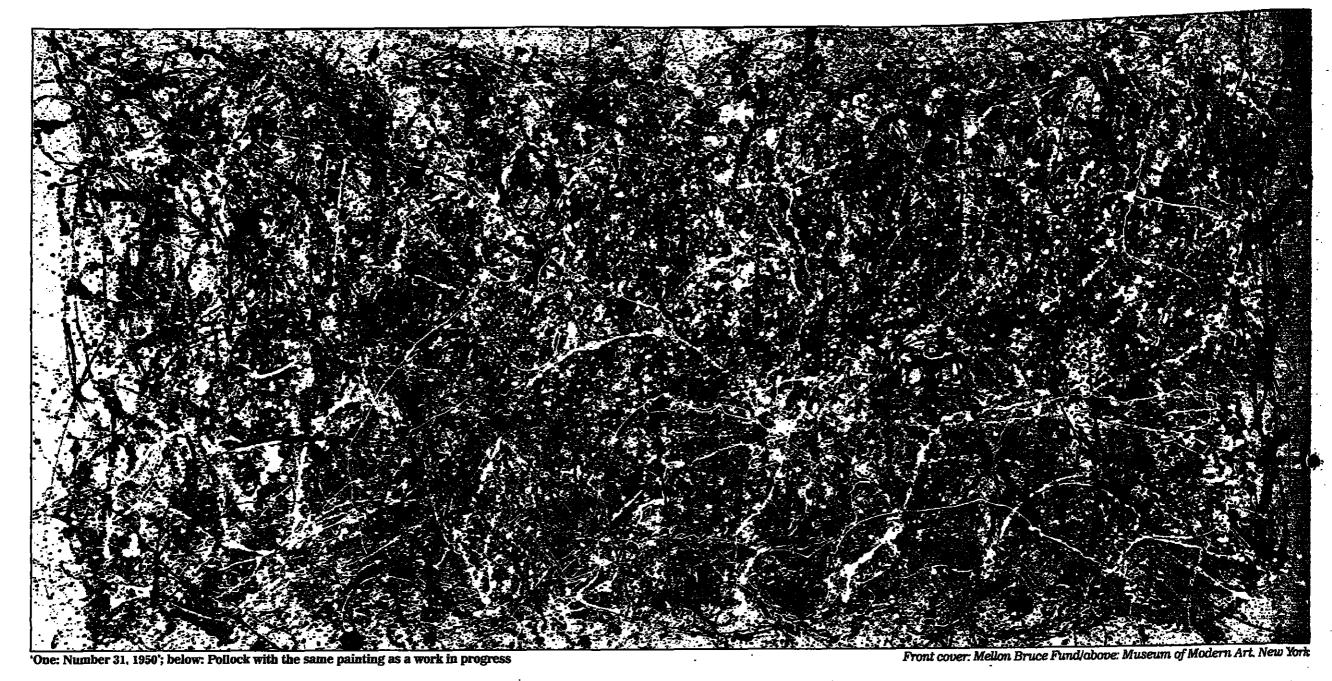
ROBERT HANKS ON TV



'The Grimleys' sadly assumed that there's something inherently funny about a Midlands accept







Dripping with significance

The latest Tate Gallery blockbuster went down a storm in Manhattan. What else do you expect from Jackson Pollock, the great New York Abstract Expressionist? His vast canvases absorb every big feeling in the world. But does that make them great paintings? By Tom Lubbock

osterity time. Fifty years ago, Jackson Pollock was painting his maswas all over. A couple more, and he was dead in a car crash at 44. Dead, and already great. His greatness, living artist?" - had hung around Pollock ever since a picture as a record of bodily movements. like a heavy cloud. And in this country, at least, the That's the textbook story, so to speak. But to show here for two generations. Might it clear the

There are grounds for suspicion, after all. Pollock's peculiar greatness is partly a historical thing. The conditions were propitious. Here was the United States: just won the war, richest nation, top of the free world, supremely confident. Whatever artistic talent it produced was going to benefit from this dominance; to be given - if remotely possible the status of world leader.

Within US culture there was a role waiting, too. Great American Artist: position vacant. There'd been the Great American Novel (Melville) and Poem (Whitman) and Music (Jazz). But in the visual arts, there'd been no body of work that convincingly broke free or ahead of the European tradition. The frontier of modern art was still Paris, not New York. You don't have to deal in active conspiracy the-

ories here leven though "The CIA invented Abstract Expressionism" is a perfect charmer). Circumstances were such that the next big thing in American art was likely to get very big indeed. What's more. Pollock's work fitted the bill so well. Its temperament was free, raw, expansive, commanding, and it had pioneer spirit. But also it was - really was - highly original.

The novelty of the paintings Pollock made, in a barn out the back of his Long Island home, was partly in how they looked, and partly in how they

were done. Their compositions were "overall": they had no image, of course, and no governing design terpieces. A few years after that, it or obvious focal points. They abandoned handiwork Dripping his paint from sticks and old brushes. Pollock substituted gravity for touch. The relationship between painter and painting was changed. The canfirst put in currency by a 1949 fea- vas was laid on the floor. It became an arena for acture in *Time* magazine – "Is he America's greatest tion. What developed on the surface wasn't so much

legend has lasted without the work having been seen praise an art, 50 years on, in terms of its originality too often. The Tate's retrospective is the first major as such, isn't quite going to work. Originality is a relay race that nobody wins. One breakthrough gives way to another. Pollock's influence has been wide. For instance, the performance side of his action painting led into performance art. But that's hardly what's good about Pollock's painting.

And what we see in the classic Pollock paintings

works such as Lovender Mist and One - is an ambition that exceeds mere innovation. They're astonishing spectacles, swarming and exploding before our eyes. They're paintings that want to be more than paintings; that want to slip the surly bonds of art. He didn't want just to be ahead of the game. He wanted out. For a short while, he was.

What we're talking about, though, is a short while. A retrospective prompts an obvious question. Is it going to be a long build-up to a final breakthrough, rich in anticipations and approaches, but with all the earlier work only interesting for what it promises? Or is it going to be a full, if brief, career?

It was clearly a struggle. The Pollock myth emphasises the wild, violent, drunken, boho outsider. But the progress of this exhibition suggests another kind of individualism: a good, work-ethical, rags-toriches story. Talent-wise, Pollock started poor. The earliest paintings are turbulent art-school effusions, and the turbulence continues as Pollock gets heavily influenced by European modern art (Picasso, Miro. Andre Masson), and goes on being influenced - and figurative - for quite a time.



writhing, doorny confections of archetype and hieroglyph (he was into Jung). But among them, one or two paintings stand out. Stenographic Figure, done when Pollock was 30, is a high-spirited, lighthearted image of loopy critters. It was an important picture for Pollock's career. It caught Mondrian's eye, resulting in Peggy Guggenheim's patronage. But in itself, it's a one-off. It shows a side to Pollock normally hard to imagine: a sense of humour. It might have led anywhere.

Not that the other work of the early Forties shows anything like a clear trajectory. It's all over the place. There are some works which, in hindsight, seem to look ahead - such as the huge, long painting called Mural (1943) he did for Guggenheim. I don't myself get a big kick out of this acknowledged milestone, but its strongly rhythmic, highly elaborated callig-

raphy of dancing stick men can be seen as point- and deeply buried in all the business. There are (1946), a very exciting field of swirling energies, with the paint delivered straight from the tube, seems on the very brink. But at the same time, there are an absolutely inert homogeneity. And all these pictures that declare he'll never get Picasso out of

And then the dripping starts. It starts uncertainly. too, what the work looked like to many of its first beholders. It looked like a mess, or again like a pretty mess. Quite often with the early ones, you really do get wilful mess-making, and it's not interesting. Quite often, too, you get a pleasingly distressed surface-texture. And both these impressions are worth holding onto.

Pollock sometimes wondered if what he was doing now was art. His critics, pro and anti, have sometimes thought not. The antis saw doodles and decor - "apocalyptic wallpaper" was the great put-down. The pros saw the pure, unmediated expressions of body or soul; a painting made in a trance state, with Pollock's unconscious or impulses marked down on the canvas. Obviously, this was partly what Pollock wanted. He wanted a spontaneous painting that bypassed the turgid symbolism of his earlier psychodramas and came straight from the deep psyche. He wanted pictures that - like some decoration looked unmade and unauthored, as if they had just developed of themselves. But the paradox of his achievement is that these things could only be done with a lot of artistry.

Pollock's act was a careful balancing act; a matter of holding things in tension, fine-tuning so as to keep all possibilities open. The classic paintings have multiple intimations, none of which is quite suppressed, none of which definitely arrives. There are - despite the "over ali" talk - hints of an underlying structure, perhaps something quasi-figurative judgements. Briefly he had been visited.

ing to an overall abstraction. And Eyes in the Heat hints, too, of infinitely complex patterning. There are hints of complete chaos and randomness. aspects shift one into another.

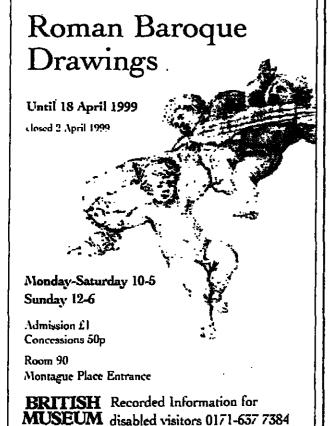
The result is work that's untraceable and ungraspable. It offers inexhaustible interest to the eve. And though within a year or two it's reached per- It can be contemplated endlessly. It always offers fection, these first drip-pictures, very hit-and-miss. something new. And if you're content for that to be 🖣 let you see what this perfection involved - and see, what painting does, you can hardly ask for more If, on the other hand, you want to give meaning to this intensely absorbing experience, you're taking a risky step. The great Pollocks have an unlimited appetite for significance. They gobble it up and ask for more. Every big feeling in the world can attach itself to them. It's another thing that made them such excellent candidates for greatness.

These paintings last, not for their innovations, but because they still stick in art's craw. Pollock's most memorable saying was his reply to being asked, why he didn't work more from nature: "I am nature." It needn't have been a megalomaniac boast. It was no more than the literal, partial truth. Who isn't? His achievement was to turn art into natural history, to make human artefacts that have the fascination of natural phenomena; blank wonders, endlessly interpretable.

It has a limit. And having reached it, Pollock rather impressively stopped - treated it as an aberration almost. At the start of the Fifties, he (so to, speak) re-wound seven years, went back to much the same kinds of picture he was doing before the drip-work started (some figurative, some less so), fell under the same old influences, did some more very interesting one-offs such as The Deep, got too drunk to paint at all, and crashed his car. There are many rather spurious romantic tendencies in Pollock's art and myth, but this late falling off is a vindication of them, and it baffles posterity's calm

From Russia with ambition

Life on the street and in a psychiatric hospital has only served to inspire painter Sergei Chepik. By Ian Phillips



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IN 1988, SERGEI CHEPIK received a visit in his Leningrad studio from the Soviet censors. The painter's first masterpiece, an allegory of the paranoia and horror of the USSR, entitled The House of the Dead, had just been rejected for exhibition four times. He should, they advised him, adopt a more "nositive" attitude - something he had always refused to do.

Realising that there was no artistic future for him at home, Chepik obtained a tourist visa for France, shipped as many paintings as possible out of the country and arrived in Paris on 1 August 1988. Three months later, The House of the Dead won the Gold Medal at the Salon d'Automne. The following year another painting, The Tree, was awarded the Monaco City Award, and a one-man exhibition was held at the Roy Miles Gallery in Mayfair in 1990. Of the 102 works on show, only three were unsold. Critics hailed him as "Russia's foremost living artist", and "the new Repin". Margaret Thatcher commissioned a portrait from him, and Rudolf Nureyev

and Alexander Solzhenitsyn subsequently agreed to pose.

Chepik met Solzhenitsyn in 1995 on his first trip back to Russia. The visit also gave him with inspiration for his latest work, Golgotha, now on show at The Gallery in Cork Street, along with all the preparatory drawings and monotypes. "I really had the feeling that my homeland has been completely crucified by the terrible political, economic and social situation there," he told me at his Montmartre studio. "When I look at the current leaders, I ask myself whether Russia has a future, whether its civilisation will not simply be wiped out."

Golgotha's originality lies in the fact that Christ is represented only in the shadow of the cross. The viewer therefore finds himself in the position of the crucified, confronted by a crowd of onlookers, whose expressions run from horror and pity to contempt and disbelief. The stiffing midday sun and oppressive walls of the ancient city create an almost unbearable claustrophobia. Its impact is breathtaking.

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Chepik's 'Golgotha'

It is not the first time that Chepik has depicted the Crucifixion. As well as a series of monotypes in 1987, he also completed a first version of Golgotha in 1989. When we meet, he has just returned

from the Venice Carnival, and a party scene in St Mark's Square sits on the would have a bed to sleep in. "It was scene in St Mark's Square sits on the extremely unsettling," he admits, "but (0171-287 8408) to 13 Mar.

easel. Throughout the interview, he gets up regularly to touch it up. "Paint- was a time which was very rich up." ing is a physical and intellectual necessity for me. I couldn't not paint, even if nobody saw my work."

He certainly seems to have been predestined to become a painter. He was born in Kiev in 1953, on Repin Street (named after the famous Russian artist). His father was a renowned House of the Dead. painter. His mother is a sculptress and he asserts that "as far back as I can remember, I have always drawn". From 1971 to 1973 he studied at the Shevchenko Art Institute in Kiev, and then at the prestigious Repin Art

Institute in Leningrad After graduation, he found himself literally on the street, as he spent nearly a year gathering the necessary papers for an artist's studio. Throughout that time he slept in rat-infested cellars, railway carriages and airport terminals. A doctor friend even arranged for him to live in a psychiatric hospital for two months so that he

terms of the people I met, and allowed me to frequent all sort of drop-outs. It really formed my vision of the world and formed me as a painter" The sketches he made of the patients in the psychiatric hospital would for example, later form the basis of The

Other formative influences include the work of his "masters": Rembrandt, Titian and Velazquez. Chepik does not shy away from comparisons with big names of the past. "An artist today must measure himself against these champions and must be as good, or what is the point?" he de clares. When I started to paint Gorgotho, I knew I'd have to compete with

the greatest masters." How does he feel he has fared? "That's for time to tell," he answers. "As the years pass, either the paint ing will be remembered, or forgotten

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HEALTH

.The pregnant pause

Weeks of waiting for the results of prenatal tests can be traumatic. By Annabel Ferriman

Thornton was expecting her first child, she resisted having an ultrasound scan until she was 13 weeks pregnant because she did not want a hi-tech, medicalised pregnancy. At that stage, however, staff at the hospital told her that a scan was important and she relented. In doing so, she unwittingly launched herself, and her husband Alan, on to a 15-week rollercoaster ride of scans, tests and medical consultations, which only ended when Polly was six and a half months pregnant and refused all further tests.

The Thorntons' baby, Jessie, was born in March 1997, in perfect health and with no chromosomal abnormalities, but the couple's highly sophisticated, first-class medical care had turned the middle of Polly's pregnancy into a nightmare.

When we went to that first scan, it was wonderful to see the baby move and to be shown the heart beat," Polly says. "But then the operator went quiet and fetched someone else. They both looked at the scan and looked grave. We asked whether there was a problem and they were evasive. We had to go back to the clinic and talk to a doctor.

"He told us that the baby's nuchal fold, which is the skin at the back of the baby's neck, was abnormally large and, as that could indicate a chromosomal abnormality, we would have to come back for another scan. Because we were going on holiday to Tunisia the next day, the doctors kindly arranged for a second one later that day. It was a clearer, state-of-the-

art scan. The new scan revealed, in greater detail, what the first one had suggested - that the nuchal fold was much larger than normal. Polly and Alan were told that the baby had a one in four chance of having Down's Syndrome. The senior doctor recommended that Polly undergo an amniocentesis (see box), which would provide a definitive diagnosis. That test could not be done until she was 15 and a half weeks pregnant, which

meant waiting three weeks. "It was devastating. It was only 12 days after the death of my mother. We went on holiday but we could not think about much else. We kept noticing children with Down's Syndrome everywhere. We didn't know what we would do if the amniocentesis was pos-

After the amniocentesis, the couple, who live in Lewisham, south London, had to wait another three weeks for the result. Much to their relief, it came back normal, but the saga did not end there. At her 20-week scan, Polly was told that an enlarged nuchal fold could also be a sign of a heart abnormality, so she was sent to Great Ormand Street Hospital for a heart scan. That turned out to be normal, but the doctor still recommended

regular scans up to birth. At 28 weeks, however, Polly, who is a writer and co-author of the book Downshifting: The Guide to Happier, Simpler Living, felt she had had enough. "I felt our medical care had



An initial ultrasound scan to detect chromosomal abnormalities usually takes place at 12 weeks

Science Photo Library

A GUIDE TO ANTENATAL TESTS

AN EARLY ultrasound scan at 10-12 weeks can reveal major abnormalities, such as anencephaly (absence of the brain) or missing limbs, and can show whether a foetus is at increased risk of Down's Syndrome. In Down's pregnancies the nuchal fold (the skin at the back of the baby's neck) is

Biochemical blood tests at 15-18 weeks include one that measures

they were acting in our best interests.

But by this time I had had five scans

and wanted to feel like a normal

Polly's experience is far from

unique and raises an important ques-

tion. How can the process of offering

women screening tests for foetal ab-

normality be organised to minimise

the charity Antenatal Results and

Choices (ARC), does not believe that

it is possible to run a system that does

not raise anxiety. "Anxiety is part of

the testing process," she says. "Once

an ultrasound operator has seen

something on a scan which is a vari-

ation of the norm, that information be-

longs to the woman. It would be

wrong to simply put it in the notes and not tell her. Unfortunately a lot of the

abnormalities are what are known as

'soft markers' - they are associated

with certain conditions but are not di-

agnostic of them. Many are of un-

Ms Joanie Dimavicius, director of

the trauma and stress?

been good and the doctors felt that certain significance."

Alpha-fetoprotein (AFP): high levels may indicate spina bifida, although nine out of 10 women with raised AFP levels are not carrying an abnormal foetus. The triple test (also called the Bart's test) measures AFP plus oestriol and human chorionic gonadotrophin: abnormal levels,

taken together with the maternal age, give a risk factor for Down's syndrome. If blood tests indicate a high risk of abnormality,

Ms Dimavicius believes that the

main way of relieving stress to par-

ents is by providing information and

time to listen to their worries. Her

charity provides a 24-hour helpline

The doctor who pioneered the

measuring of the nuchal fold as a

screening test is Professor Kyprianos

Nicolaides, professor of foetal medi-

cine at King's College Hospital, Lon-

don. He still believes it is a useful test

but now recommends that it is used

in combination with two other mea-

surements - the age of the mother and

the presence of certain hormones in

the blood. Taken together, these mea-

surements provide a reliable indica-

tor of which mothers should go on to

"This combination of tests will de-

tect 90 per cent of babies with Down's

Syndrome," Professor Nicolaides

says. The majority (19 out of 20) of

mothers who go on to have an am-

niocentesis in these circumstances

have an amniocentesis test.

which people can ring.

skill and also the baby's position. Amniocentesis is offered to women who have had an abnormal triple test result, or whose early ultrasound showed

duces the number of amniocenteses

you have to do to pick up the vast ma-

jority of babies with Down's Syn-

diagnostic tests such as

amniocentesis will be offered.

weeks can detect spina bifida,

hare-lip and abnormalities of the

intestines, diaphragm and limbs.

How much is discovered during a

scan depends on the operator's

A later ultrasound scan at 16-20

are drawn off, can be performed at 10-12 weeks, but there is a slightly higher risk of miscarriage than with amniocentesis. will discover that they are expecting a normal child, but it considerably re-

an enlarged nuchal fold, or who

greater risk of having a Down's

aby. A fine needle is inserted

through the wall of the abdomen

Chorionic villus sampling (CVS),

in which cells from the placenta

into the womb to draw out

amniotic fluid for analysis.

are over 35 or 40, and therefore at

drome, he explains. Is there any way doctors can pick up chromosomal abnormalities without subjecting such a large number of women to an amniocentesis test? Professor Charles Rodeck, professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University College London Medical School, thinks so. The future may lie in combining the results of the 12week ultrasound scan with the blood tests now done at 15 weeks (the triple test) to detect abnormalities. "That way you should get a good detection rate for abnormalities and a lower false positive rate. In other words, fewer women would have to go on to

have an amniocentesis. Professor Rodeck adds that "with new rapid chromosome analysis, it is now possible to get the results back from an amniocentesis in 48 hours, in-

take. Although rapid analysis cannot rule out every single chromosomal abnormality, it can eliminate the more common and more serious ones."

Polly Thornton thinks these developments will be useful steps forward. "The problem about being told that your child may have a serious abnormality and then not knowing for certain for many weeks is that you start instinctively denying your pregnancy just in case it never goes to term." she says, "All the weeks of uncertainty did not stop us bonding with our baby, but if it had gone on much longer; we would have been much less prepared for her birth."

Helen Statham, a senior research associate at the University of Cambridge's Centre for Family Research, says there is no way of avoiding the stress of tests. "The trouble is, most women have scans for reassurance. But any test that can reassure you also has the potential to alarm you. Otherwise it is meaningless."

be impartial

A KINDLY doc sent me an interesting circular last week. He had received it from an organisation that called itself Media Medics. It was headed "Paediatric vaccination: Formation of a national media network". and what it contained struck him, and me, as being somewhat sinister.

The letter was about the MMR vaccination which, unless you have been living on the moon, you will know was the subject of a major scare a year ago. Research by doctors at the Royal Free Hospital, London, linked the vaccine, which is given in the first months of life and is then followed by a booster just before starting school, with both bowel disease and autism.

The ensuing rumpus, which was widely covered in the media, led to a slump in MMR vaccination, raising fears that measles, mumps and rubella infections could rise. The link has since been discredited, notably by a panel of two dozen specialists hastily ssembled at the request of the Government's Chief Medical Officer, which concluded the evidence of harm was simply not there.

That, however, has not reassured thousands of parents who fear that the safety of their individual offspring is being placed second to the need to protect the public health. They smelt, in a word, that

there was a conspiracy. Into this emotional maelstrom step Media Medics. In their circular aimed at doctors who appear on local radio and in the regional press, they say they are seeking to form a network of spokespeople who are able to respond to media enquiries on MMR "to encourage balanced and factual information" on

Volunteers will be supplied with a "comprehensive briefing pack" telling them all they need to know on the subject. In return for their time, a payment (unspecified) plus expenses, is offered. "Local people need to hear local voices that they can relate to and trust." the circular goes on to conclude.

And who is sponsoring this public-spirited venture, I hear you ask? Why. Pasteur Merieux MSD. "the UK's largest supplier of paediatric vaccinations", the circular frankly admits. To redress the "emotional and one-sided manner" with which the debate about



LAURANCE

MMR has been presented in the media, the manufacturers of the drug are proposing to pay tame docs, through Media Medics to put the case for the

It doesn't need me, a supporter of MMR vaccination, to tell Media **Medics and Pasteur Merieux** that they are shooting themselves in the foot. In a debate which is as highly charged as the one over MMR, the only surefire certainty is that anyone who takes hard cash for uttering an opinion on the subject will not be believed. Indeed. it is likely only to stoke the arguments of the

conspiracy theorists. When I put this to Dr Paul Stillman, signatory of the circular and the man behind Media Medics, he seemed abashed. He insisted he was against payment of large sums, which would be an inducement, but thought it reasonable to reimburse doctors expenses, apparently forgetting that the circular refers to the payment of an "honorarium" and expenses. He said: "What we do is, of course, not promotional. If it appears that way, I will be very unhappy." But what

other way can it appear?

Tom Dick, head of corporate public relations for Pasteur Merieux, was unaware of the arrangement which may have been fixed through the company's marketing department, he said. The company wanted to put across the benefits of vaccination "because the anti-vaccine lobby tends to capture the high ground with emotive arguments", but he did not know of plans to pay doctors to do so.

Like most people, when I have a medical problem l look to doctors for independent advice. In matters of health, that independence matters more than in almost any other field. Doctors would be reckless if they were to squander it.

Dr Fred Kavalier will be back next week to answer your health questions

What your genes say about you

THE ERA of genetic testing is upon us, and one of the first uses to which it has been put is in prenatal diagnosis, to offer a woman the opportunity to terminate a pregnancy if she is carrying a foetus with a serious and incurable disease.

But few people really understand what genetic tests can do and more important, what

they cannot do. Part of the difficulty is due to the complex nature of biological inheritance and how it impinges on the health of the body. About 80,000 human genes make up the human "genome". Each person inherits two copies of a gene, one from each parent (except for those on the X and Y sex chromosomes). Each copy can be identical or can differ slightly but still function correctly - although they may produce different physical effects, such as eye colour.

Some copies can be so different from the "normal" forms that they do not function at all. Most genetic tests are based on being able to detect the presence of mutations that make these genes defective.

But having a single, defective copy of a gene does not

automatically result in the development of a genetic disorder. There are fundamentally three types of single-gene disorders. The first is when a single defective copy of a gene results in disease - a "dominant" disorder. In the second, both copies have to be defective to cause harm - a "recessive" disorder. The third is when the gene in question occurs on the X chromosome. These "sexlinked" disorders usually affect only males, but females can be healthy carriers. Haemophilia is a good example.

Scientists have discovered well over 4,000 inherited diseases caused by defects in single genes. Tests have been developed or are in the process of being developed to detect defective genes in blood, saliva or indeed virtually any body tissue, including hair.

A positive result does not always mean that a person will develop the disease. About 10 per cent of women who are positive for the breast cancer mutation on the gene BRCA1, for instance, never develop tumours, Similarly, a negative result does not mean a person will be for ever free of that dis-

Tests for inherited disorders pose ethical dilemmas. By Steve Connor



Good health: it's all in the chromosomes

or develop, mutations in another part of the same gene that is not picked up by the test. Another difficulty is that although genetic testing can tell whether a person is at risk of

Europeans. It becomes increasingly crippling for suffer-ers during childhood; one of the biggest problems is a build-up a particular disorder, it is a sad of sticky mucus in the lungs, fact that practically all genetic making breathing difficult. disorders are incurable. Cystic fibrosis is a recessive condition, so a person can

rosis, the most common gen-

etic disorder of white northern

Genetic testing on adults raises other ethical concerns. carry one defective copy of ease. It may be that they carry, Take, for instance, cystic fib- the gene in question without

has a child with another carrier, there is a one-in-four chance that their baby will inherit both defective copies and so suffer from the disease. A test for the defective copy

any ill-effects. But if he or she

of the "cystic fibrosis" gene was the first genetic diagnostic to be made directly available to the British public, bypassing doctors. This caused consternation among government experts, who recommended that these over-the-counter tests should be properly regulated and controlled

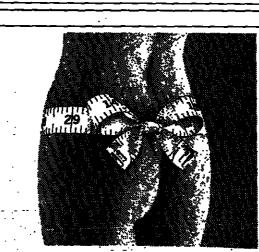
The Advisory Committee on Genetic Testing saw a "limited role" for such tests, believing that they should be made available to assess a person's "carrier" status only for inherited, recessive disorders, and recommended that people should have direct access to a genetic test only if the result had no direct health implications for

the person being tested. The problem really begins with tests to determine a person's future health. Many gen-etic disorders occur in adult life. The best example is Huntington's chorea, which results cline. Huntington's is not only to comprehend.

dominant; if the test shows you have the mutation, it means that you are destined to die prematurely of a distressing, incurable illness.

The ethical dilemmas are exacerbated by the fact that a positive result impinges on other family members. If, say, a woman in her thirties decides to take the test because her father is dying of the disease a positive result would also mean that her children are now at a calculable risk. They may prefer not to be burdened with knowing these odds. As more genes are discov-

ered, genetic tests will play an increasingly important role in determining risks of late-onset diseases. Some of these, suchas Alzheimer's, heart disease and schizophrenia, may involve more than one gene, as well as environmental influences. Doctors of the future may be able to make good guesses about not just what patients are likely to die of, but when, It may help people to avoid a lifestyle that puts them at risk of premature death, but it will raise ethical concerns in slow physical and mental de- that we are only just beginning



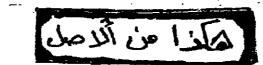
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His management style is loathed and the great and the good have lined up against him. But John Birt's record as BBC Director General will stand the test of time. By Ian Hargreaves

ili Sir John as the direral who iled the BBC as a creative force and set it on the route to marginalisation? Or as the man who steered it brilliantly through the most difficult period in its history?

This is a momentous year for the BBC. It must appoint a director general to succeed Birt and the Government must decide how much money the corooration will have in the years beyond 2001, on the basis of a report on funding from a com-mittee chaired by the city economist Gavyn Davies.

Not in the corporation's entire history has a director general been so widely and publicly reviled. Last week, in a House of Lords debate initiated by Lord Bragg, peers queued up to attack the "croak-voiced Dalek" (Dennis Potter) and his "pseudo-Leninist managerial methods" (Michael Grade). Among the critics was Lord Hussey, who was chairman of the BBC from 1986 to 1996. during which time Birt became first deputy director general, then director general.

Hussey cited approvingly the opinion of Raymond Snoddy of The Times that "the BBC is drowning in policy options and perpetual revolution. Less money should be spent on all those areas not directly connected with programmemaking", adding that he feared "for the future of radio against the monster television... I do not think that it [the BBC] has got its strategy right."

This portentous oration was heightened by the opaque anxieties expressed by Bragg himself and made melodramatic by the bloody dagger writer and former BBC governor, who struck out against a management "too rigidly controlled, too bureaucratic, too secretive and too arrogant" and too inclined to communicate in "that curious bureaucratic jargon which bears little relation

to the English language". Some of this poison has its

source in particular episodes. Hussey, whose wife is a member of the royal household, objected bitterly to the famous Panorama interview with Diana. Princess of Wales: Baroness James was of the anti-Birt party in 1992 when the governors plumped for him as DG by a single vote. I, too, am familiar with the

scene of the crime, having worked directly to Birt during Hussey's chairmanship in the late Eighties. In 1993 I published a pamphlet suggesting that by 2005 the BBC licence fee would face a crisis of legitimacy, as the corporation's share of the audience fell towards 30 per cent. I advocated a new form of non-profit, mutual ownership for the BBC, capable of more readily tapping diverse sources of income including public subsidy, advertising and subscription, and providing a firewall against the party political interference that nearly undid the BBC during the zenith of Margaret Thatcher's power.

Although I am sure the issue of funding and ownership of the BBC is not dead, it is clear that I was wrong about timing. But Birt's position now goes much further: that the licence fee is here to stay and should be increased. Having appointed Davies, the Government has in effect conceded the case, since Davies is on record with a detailed, if rather contorted argument that any sign of weakness in BBC audience share should be rewarded with more and more public money.

But the undeniable point is that John Birt is about to leave the BBC with a strong position in all the important new broadcasting technologies, and in its best financial and political shape for 20 years.

from two formidable personal qualities: his ability to focus upon strategy, not detail, and to organise his own time and that of his central team to that purpose; and his political skills, honed in his days at LWT's Weekend World. Birt's style, as

methodical in political socialising as in analysing the competition, propelled the BBC through the battlefield of Thatcherism and the nowhere land of John Major, and is about to be garlanded by New Labour. When Lord Hussey says that

Birt has the "wrong strategy" and should "concentrate on its mainstream channels and invest in them" (ie Test cricket not 24-hour news on radio and television), he succeeds only in tying himself in knots, since he still supports the BBC's expansion into digital TV channels and Radio 5 Live. In any case, the big money is still at the core; you could buy a year of television's News 24 and the whole of the BBC Internet service for less than the cost of Radio 3. The problem, which Hussey does not attempt to solve, is that a BBC which has only a quarter of UK television revenues cannot bid for sports contracts in the way it did six years ago when the ratio was very nearly It is now plain that Birt has

chance of sustaining the case for the licence fee into the next 10 or 20 years. By diversifying into new commercial ventures, he blocked the argument that the BBC is wasting the value of its archive; by going deep into digital television, he put the BBC is at the heart of a major technology switch and opened the way for themed BBC channels on news, arts, education, history and science as part of the rich mix that rewards the licence fee payer. Most remarkably of all. Birt saw early on that the Internet would become a primary distribution channel for TV and radio. Today, BBC Online runs the most visited Internet services in Europe. By comparison, ITV is nowhere.

found the only strategy with any

the politics of the licence fee is the licence fee is that it is compulsory and unfair, and that its legitimacy diminishes with the BBC's audience share as alternative TV and radio channels multiply. In practice, the BBC has contained the drift in its market share, while broadening the basic case for the licence fee by showing that even in the age of communications plenty, people want services of a type and quality not served up by the market. Indeed, the rise of the Internet strengthens this point in other ways, because here is a medium beyond the reach of effective regulation; the only way that governments can intervene is to support invest-

ment in superior content. Lord Hussey, paradoxically, conceded this point by noting: when I arrived at the BBC I thought it had too much influence; I now think it has too



fundamental. The case against little." This is precisely Birt's political masterstroke; politicians across all parties, bruised by Rupert Murdoch, want a media player over which they have a different kind of influence, even though the BBC remains Britain's media giant. In short, New Labour is eating out of Sir John Birt's hand.

So why is Birt not acclaimed for this achievement? One reason is that the price of it has been to strip funds from existing BBC activities to help pay for the corporation's stake in the new media world. That has been painful for staff and has led to compromises on quality. But if the result is that the BBC is securely funded into the next decade, even the most scarred producer will eventually think

the price fair. The most difficult charge to answer is the claim that the

and makes fewer good programmes. There is certainly no evidence for this in the corporation's record of winning industry awards in the Nineties - it typically carries off more than three-quarters in every contest, and BBC executives can list their major documentary and drama achievements to counter justifiable sneering at The Vanessa Show.

The bottom line is that the audience figures are better than John Birt expected when he arrived at the BBC. He foresaw the TV audience share falling to 30 per cent, but in fact the BBC will see out millennium night with more than 40 per cent of the United Kingdom's TV viewing and an astonishing 43 per cent share of all viewing and listening. Again, ITV has done much worse: its audience share diminished BBC has become less creative, from 41 to 32 per cent between

the most unpalatable truth is that it is his loathed and parodied management style which lies at the very heart of his achievement. When he (and I) arrived at Broadcasting House in the mid-Eighties, he found a constellation of committees and fiefdoms disconnected from the director general's office and even its board of management. It was a honeycomb with no queen bee. These arrangements may have been

workable and perhaps even defensible in an era of abundant cash, when the BBC dominated British broadcasting. But by the mid-Eighties that era had closed. The fact that ITV persisted with a loose, ungainly federation explains many of its recent failures.

Today, Birt's central management team is well resourced (it accounts for 3.4 per

1993 and 1998. For Birt's critics, cent of BBC expenditure, not out of line with big private sector corporations) and capable of delivering strategic analysis and results at impressive speed. Novelists may not like the language, but that's the way they talk in business schools and board rooms.

Birt's weakness is not his strategy, or his management philosophy, but the fact that he is a poor communicator - even those who work closely with him can feel cut off and demotivated, and most staff simply feel they do not know him.

At close proximity Birt is funny, clever, loyal and down-toearth - but none of this is visible through the matrix of critical path analysis and programme cost per hour calibrations. Like John Reith, Birt is an engineer who tends to assume that everyone else has a The writer is professor of jourbrain like his own. He has none

of Michael Grade's big showbiz talk or John Tusa's heroic gesture - but he's a much more skilled operator than either.

It is perhaps a sign of his weakness with people that there is no obvious heir apparent within the corporation. But whoever gets the job will thank his or her predecessor for a position of strength unimaginable 10 years ago.

The least the new boss can do is to commission a decent artist to paint the outgoing DG - I suggest David Rockney - and to hang the portrait on the wall of the Council Chamber opposite that of John Reith, Let the two engineers stare at each other for half a century, because neither was loved at the moment of his greatest

nalism at Cardiff University

Guide to Sushi

INDEPENDENT ON SUNDAY

寿司ガイド

From its origins in Japan 1,000 years ago, Sushi has become a worldwide phenomenon. The Independent on Sunday's Guide to Sushi, published on March 14, outlines Sushi's history and culture, and explains the different varieties. Learn to prepare sushi at home with a simple step-by-step guide, and unlock the mysteries of this delicious, fresh and nutritious food with the Guide to Sushi.



Can Evans do a Star turn?

Chris Evans has to persuade Ginger's shareholders that he can work his magic in newspapers. By Paul McCann

ALL THAT is really known about Chris Evans's plans for the Daily Star, should he take control of it, is that he would make Mike Soutar the editor. Mr Soutar is the man who

turned FHM from a magazine selling 60,000 a month to one selling half a million plus. He knows about young men and he knows what motivates them to buy publications, so on paper he certainly seems like the man who could save the Star.

Weekend reports that Chris Evans's Ginger Media Group has been talking to the Stor's owner, Express Newspapers, about swapping a 16 per cent stake in Ginger for the red-top were thin on details of what Ginger would do with the paper. All that emerges is the enigmatic phrase "a sport and televisionled newspaper". The feeling seems to be that it can be updated into a daily "lads' mag" by one of that genre's inventors.

is looking at the Star casts some light on the current status of the Group's plans. Most people within Ginger Media are agreed that they have to make it less dependent on Evans. He drives the radio station, working on air six days a week on top of his TFI Friday show for Channel 4.

Although it was Evans's name which made the headlines, in reality the deal is Matthew Freud's. Evans's PR man, who knows a lot more about newspapers than Evans, has been conducting negotiations with Nicholas Rudd-Express Newspapers.

But it does show that Evans is serious about expanding Ginger as a media company with a diverse portfolio. Ginger has a production arm, making television and radio programmes, and a distribution arm, which is the radio station: But the very fact that Ginger he was looking for a third divi-



Jones, managing director of Evans is serious about expanding Ginger Media

sion, to be separate from Evans. That was to be the Stor. Holding Ginger back are Apax Partners, its minority shareholders and the venture capital company that lent Evans the money to buy Virgin Radio; and, to a lesser extent,

per cent of Ginger Media when he sold Virgin Radio,

The fact that the "Ginger to buy the Star" story appeared in six newspapers' business sections on one day has led those at the centre of the deal to believe it was leaked when Apax Richard Branson, who took 20 consulted City analysts. Apax that The Mirror is usually anti-

vetoed the deal at a meeting Evans. If he used Virgin to two weeks ago, but did not make its veto definitive. Supporters hope that the fact that Apax discussed it with the City means it is still possible.

Apax is opposed at least partly because it is worried that a share-swap deal for the paper would dilute its holding in Ginger. But it must also be worried that it backed Evans in the first place because he knows about broadcasting.

Branson has said in the past that he has decided against owning newspapers because, as a public figure, rival newspapers would turn against him and his commercial interests. For Evans the risk is that The Sun would turn against him.

The Sun sometimes seems like the in-house newspaper of Ginger Media, so often does Chris Evans's antics appear in its pages. This is a deliberate strategy and one which means

promote his Star and the Star got all his exclusives, The Sun and the Daily Mail could be added to his list of enemies.

For Express Newspapers, there has been talk of continued involvement and co-operation with the Star, which is a smokescreen put up because the deal has gone public

It is probably too late to try to make the Stor's staff feel loved: circulation is down, staff numbers have been halved in a year and the general feeling is that management is embarrassed by the title's content and they want to be rid of it. In fact. under the Ginger deal the title would eventually move out of Express headquarters to a sep-

arate site. The question now is whether Chris Evans and Matthew Freud want the newspaper badly enough to convince their backers that Mike Soutar can work his miracles again.

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State of distribution

The open access slot Video Nation is five years old this week. Producers Chris Mohr and Mandy Rose choose their favourite films

My life as a fly on the wall

straight back. Where would

of issue-led programmes.

ideo Nation has created a space

where people can represent them-

selves in their own words as the

rounded, complex beings they are,

in the context of their own worlds.

The slot also seems to answer a real

hunger for inclusion. A tattooed

biker summed it up when she said

she wanted to show that people like

her were "just like everyone else".

And, as a Scottish fisherman put it:

"I need to see myself on television

to know that I really exist." There's a climate of disdain towards people's

desire to be on TV - a rather Eng-

lish suspicion about parading the private in public - but it seems to us

that this repeated desire for inclusion expresses a valid need to see

one's life reflected in the public

arena. The popularity of docusoaps

and chat shows attests to that desire

being asked for?

the audience, but do those pro-

mmes deliver everything that's

And if Video Nation is different,

technology or the production

process - it's the principle. There are two in fact, without which it simply

wouldn't work. In the first place, peo-

ple film to their own agenda; even when we suggest or encourage it's up to them how when where and

Crucially, though, they have edi-

torial control over their own mate-

rial, a policy unique to the BBC's

Community Programme Unit, Most

documentary makers are horrified

by the prospect of sharing power

us stories which wouldn't other-

wise reach the screen, either be-

But it frees our contributors to tell

even whether they film.

with a non-professional.

because they would worry about how magine a retired army colonel, silver moustache. that material might be used on TV. clipped accent, ramrodoutside of their control.

The resulting insights they grant you expect to see him on us into their everyday lives conelevision? And what could stantly challenge media stereotypes. A young black man is burgled; he you assume about his political views complains bitterly of the decline in When Gordon Hencher was given family values. An ex-miner living the opportunity to record somein Wigan who lost his job "under thing he felt strongly about, it was Maggie" admits he's done well ever the way his body had aged while his since, and now wonders whether to heart remained young. "Mirror" was the first Video Nation short ever vote Conservative. A gay man is overwhelmed with emotion when his broadcast on BBC2 and it's an arheterosexual friends choose him as sole godfather to their first child. chetype. Over the past five years, These people are so real you hundreds more unheard voices and unseen faces have popped up in the couldn't make them up. schedules - all indisputably part of British society but not generally part of our TV viewing, unless as subjects

The other discovery is that once the camera has become part of their lives people use it with enormous visual eloquence, developing their own individual style as if it were handwriting.

There's the Belfast GP who filmed a family outing in such a fluid sequence of hand-held shots that it was broadcast virtually uncut; and the disenchanted telephone engineer who, pre-May 1997, turned the camera away from himself to a dreary, rainy view out of his window, saying "that's how a lot of people in this country feel about life today".

In a mass society that's quite fragmented, we need to be confronted with one another's similarities as well as our differences; and we desperately need the differences to be humanised. These recordings have a dignity arising from the fact that the contributor has chosen to turn the camera on in order to volunteer an image or an opinion. In the observational style which has come to be virtually synonymous with documentary on British television, the subjects become objects captured by utors are subjects of their own

You know a genre has succeeded when other programmes and TV ads start to copy it. It took a long time for Video Nation to seep into the public's consciousness but, five years on, a surprisingly broad spectrum of the viewing audience has been moved,

amused and challenged by them. It seems we've stumbled on a TV format which has brought accessprogramming into the mainstream and created a precious, ongoing connection with the audience the

Chris Mohr and Mandy Rose are the q" 'se we wouldn't know to ask, or producers of 'Video Nation'.



THIRTY-NINE WEEKS

"I can't stop touching it, wiggling it, cuddling it, moving it around, ... I can't help it - I've never loved any part of my anatomy so much." A full-frontal pregnancy is all you see for most of this short, while Jean Lee strokes her naked turnmy and talks about her feelings for the unborn baby. Both bold and mesmerising, the shot allows us to invest the bulge with her emotions more powerfully than if we were just watching her talking.



LOO

A Scottish clan chief on holiday in Finland takes the camera from the cottage he's staying in to the outside loo. He's intrigued that the owners have decorated the loo with flowers, magazines, artefacts. "In this over-antiseptic world it's beautiful to find a place where nature is so completely respected, in all her aspects." It's a hymn to a side of human existence only ever mentioned on TV with

disgust or as a joke.



SCARED

In a terraced house in Gwent a steel worker talks to camera about his fears. Tom Waits's gravelly voice provides an almost operatic accompaniment. "From 1979 until last year the only thing I've ever been afraid of was tosing my Social Security. Since I've been working I've worried about losing my job." He talks of death, his love for his grandson, his belief In nuclear disaster, his indifference to the violence around him. It's a life laid bare in two minutes.



MOUSE

A delightful tale of a Belfast GP, his children, and a mouse. It's told in one brilliant developing shot that Orson Welles couldn't have bettered. With the humane mouse trap in one hand and his camera in the other, Mark McClean keeps up a witty commentary while filming himself, the children's reactions, the fields, the house - then hands the camera to his son to hold over the bucket. We wait.

with bated breath, to see the mouse emerge.



"So we actually met at the service station. I was in a bit of shock because there were so many of her relations there." "I didn't even know his name, just had this photograph and that was it." "I just started babbling on; I said sometimes I had these weird dreams, and she thought I'd said wet dreams!" Sarbjit and latinder, describing their happily arranged marriage, challenge media preconceptions

about traditional matchmaking.

ONE WEEK



It's late at night. A Seventies hit is playing. A couple are arguing about her smoking. They're drunk. He: "I've given up arguing." She: "No, you can't. If you give up arguing you give up life!" Anyone who has debated important issues after a few too many will smile, but it's also very moving. "If you smoke for however many years, that's going to reduce your life by however many years. And that's however many years I'm gonna lose you."



FULL MONTY

The act of filming is always a construct, but that doesn't make it a lie. A West Highlands fisherman, lan Mackinnon, puts on a show for us with an amused/embarrassed attempt at a striptease. He also alerts us to a trend and explores male vanity; Somebody suggested some guys strip to raise money for the village hall... and it's struck fear into every male under 70: fear that he will be asked [pause] and fear that he won't."

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BUNGEE

This young property developer strapped a camera to his chest to film his first jump. It's about as close as you could hope for without jumping yourself. But shorts are most effective when they work on more than one level, and it's what Toby says as he hurtles through space that makes us connect with his exhilaration and sense of release: "If you're bored with your job and your woman has dumped you, do this - it's better than sex!"



MIRROR

A retired colonel spells out a word: "M-I-R-R-O-R, mirror. It's a ghastly thing to look, and see your face, what it is now, and what you feel it should be. One doesn't feel old, you know. But every time you look in that confounded mirror and see what age has done to your face, your body, your hands. that's what I dislike more than anything." It's all the more poignant for being delivered in the clipped tones of a man of his generation and class.

THE WORD ON THE STREET

ANYONE SEEKING clues to the priorities of Channel 4 under its new regime need only look at the scheduling and promotion of its disability series, Access All Areas. The first instalment, The Half Monty, aired last Thursday, was a light piece about dwarf strippers which gave a positive picture of disability.

It was heavily trailed and the channel's PR machine got it the coveted "pick of day" listing in all four to Jadsheets. It was broadcast at 8.30pm - one of Channel 4's best slots which helped the show to a healthy 1.5m viewers.

Then consider the fourth and last in the series. It is a challenging and important film, about the education of a boy with Down's syndrome, which reflects none too well on our education system. It is being aired at midnight on a Monday - the worst night of the week for late-night viewing, Very brave.

THE AUDITOR'S report which last week cleared the Radio Authority of Newsnight's accusations of wrongdoing in awarding licences couldn't have come at a better time to rescue



the regulator's image. Admittedly it has a member of staff still on police bail, but before the report it was starting to become a target of Kelvin MacKenzie's humour. At an industry function recently, he was introduced to someone from the authority and quipped, "Oh you're the bloke from Bung Towers".

UNBELIEVABLY, THERE are even more sinister forces than the Daily Mail opposed to Channel 4's gay programming. Last week C4's offices in London's Victoria were picketed by some burly men opposed to the screening of Queer Nation. Holding placards describing the station as "Queer Scum", they handed out leaflets which

identified them as members of International Third Position. The ITP was set up in the Eighties after a National Front split. It is run by a Colin Todd from Newcastle, who has convictions for violence, and Roberto Fiore, who was convicted in his absence of organising a terror group in Italy.

THERE WAS an

uncharacteristic slip-up at Associated Newspapers this weekend when the Mail on Sunday's supplement Night & Day failed to manage its vaunted relaunch in much of the country. A note on page two of the main paper apologised to readers in the North-west because they wouldn't get their television listings. Helpfully, the apology said they might get their Night & Day if they went back to the newsagent later in the day, and would definitely get it if they came

in for it on Monday. Perhans this is an idea for the future. As Sunday papers get bigger, their printing and distribution nightmares could be alleviated by staggering sales of the paper right

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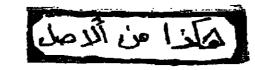
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NOTICE IS HEREBY CIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Incohercy Act 1986 that a Meeting of Creditors of the above named company will be held at 135 The Pasade, High Street, Wastord, Hersfordshie, WOT 1NS on Thursday 11th March 1999 at 10.15 am. Thursday 11th March 1999 at 10.15 am.
Proty Forms, accompanied by statements of claim, shall be duly completed and lodged at the registered office of the Company, 10 finnt Associates, 135 The Parade, High Street, Waldord, Hertfordshire, WDI INS not later than 12.00 moon of the day before the meeting. Notice is also hearby gives, pursuant to Section 98(2) of the Insolvency Act 1980 that Kenn Asthony Marghy of Flun Associates, 135 The Parade, High Street, Waldord, Hertfordshire, WDI INS is qualified to act as an Insolvency Pacifitioner in relation to the company. A let of sames and Within five weeks immediate following the date of the above mentioned resolution, arcreditor of the company as apply to the High Court und Companies Art. 1985 section 176 for an order probabilism if Insolvency Pacificioner in relation to the company. A lest of names addresses of the above company's crefitors can be inspected at the codices of Firm Associates. 153 The Paradle, Phigh Street, Watford, Hestfordshire, W/DI INS on the two besites days prescribing the meeting of creditors.

By Order of the Board Paul Michael Kleby, Director FT T SALET

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Chat Lines

Hanging up the peashooter

Anthony Howard, one of Fleet Street's great mischief makers, has retired. His only regret is that he was never made Ottawa correspondent. By Ann Treneman

journalism. He is 65 and newly retired. He has just received the Beraid Barry Award Papers Say awards. But at heart he is still a mischief maker.

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At first, he will admit this only grudgingly. But, I say, your first act of journalism - writing an anonymous diary as a national serviceman was something for which you could have been courtmartialled.

"Yes, well that is true. Yes. Hmm." Then he warms to the theme. He says that someone has to be the one with the peashooter. "You know the first question Lord Beaverbrook asked me when I went for an interview in, oh, 1958 or so, was 'Do you want to make mischief?' I found that very appealing. But I didn't really believe him. He wanted to make mischief for Gaitskell and Labour but not the Tories."

The conversation had strayed yet again into political territory. This is the way with Tony Howard. Just when you think you've left the subject for good, he wiggles it back into the conversation. He almost became a politician several times over. In the end, each time, he chose jour-

nalism - or journalism chose him. "I'm not sure it was the right decision. What would I most have liked to have been? Most of all, editor of The Guardian." When he joined that paper in 1959, he was forced to give up being a prospective Labour candidate. "I can remember when I went up to Manchester saying to myself, as you do when you are 25, what would you rather be, a Labour cabinet minister or editor of The Guardian? I came down for editor. So I think I

may have made the wrong choice." The last time I saw Tony Howard wrong. "There was a move to court-

a grand old man of more than a decade ago at The Observer. There he was known as erudite, gossipy and good at making a decision. You would take a problem or a page proof into his room for Lifetime Service in the What the it never seemed an office - and he would pause and have a think before making his decision. He never tried

to fob you off. He believes that he was in with a chance to become editor of that paper. In the end, Donald Trelford stayed on and Tony says that he knew the game was up when Donald suggested that he might want to

There was a move to courtmartial me but luckily the commander said don't be silly, that's exactly what he wants'

go back to Washington. This was in 1988. "I said, you know I don't believe in going back. I'd done that in the 1960s. So I wasn't fired but the hint

had been given." It is fun to talk to Tony Howard. He has a wonderful memory for detail and he often comes up with exact dates or headlines or names from 30 or 40 years ago. He prepared for a career at the Bar at Oxford but then, as a national serviceman, couldn't resist writing for the New Statesman. It was his belief that no one in the officers' mess read the magazine and so he signed the last one. He quickly discovered that he was

nthony Howard is now he was a deputy editor and it was martial me but luckily the commander, a man called Bernard Fergusson - that is with a double s by the way - said don't be silly, that's exactly what he wants."

He was making £5 a week in the Army and was offered a job at Reynolds News, which was "pretty second rate" but paid well at £1,500 a year. He wrote a young man's view of Parliament and had been in the job a few months when Lord Beaverbrook summoned him. Several job offers came of this but the politics were wrong and he decided to approach The Guardian instead.

This seems to have been when he really began his career. He took a pay cut, left his flat in London and his desk at the House of Commons for the delights of digs in Manchester. He worked in a room with lots of desks and two telephone booths. No one liked to answer the phone. There were no named bylines.

He left in 1961 to be political correspondent for the New Statesman and was then wooed to The Sunday Times to be the first-ever Whitehall correspondent. This was a disaster, not least because Prime Minister Wilson had issued instructions that no one was to talk to him. "It was a very frustrating period. I occasionally got some tiny chipolata in the paper but really it was nothing."

Out of the blue The Observer asked him to be its Washington correspondent. This was where he made his name but it was his next job, as editor of the New Statesman. from 1972 to 1978, that he says was his own personal high point.

He then had another flutter with the idea of politics. "I did indicate I was available for a seat. It would never have worked. Thank God it didn't. If it had, I would have gone into the Commons in 1979 and faced 18 years of opposition." Instead, he became editor of The Listener and, yes. I'll do other things first. Like



Anthony Howard: Torn between journalism and politics, his career could have taken a very different route

anelagother groove fiv

TIPUL ILA VITA E BELL.

in 1981, went back to The Observer for what would be seven years.

He says he has always been "bimedia". He went to the BBC for a few years and is still always popping up on Newsnight. He finds such instant commentating much easier than writing, which only gets more difficult. "I now find that writing a serious article is rather intimidating." Does he procrastinate? "Oh

write letters. Or do my VAT!" In 1993 he took his last job, as obituaries editor of The Times. Legend has it that this was the job he wanted in what he calls the "evening of my days in journalism". In fact, he insists, the job he actually named was Ottawa correspondent - "a real deadbeat of a job". Whatever the truth, he has enjoyed editing the pages tremendously. "It became a

So what motivates him? Stories? Writing? Money? He has been proud of the odd story or two, though dislikes what he calls the "major row" school of journalism. Good writing is what he cares about most. He mentions Roy Hattersley and Alan Watkins. "But I don't think we have anyone today quite in the league of Bernard Shaw in his heyday or pos-

sibly Gore Vidal in America." He has never gone anywhere for the money. He once shared a flat with Michael Heseltine and told him he did not see the point of making money from something like property development. "It is just boring." He is now ghosting Heseltine's memoirs. There may be another book, "something political". As I leave, I say he seems oldfashioned. He says he likes to think he's "modern". I find this so old-fashioned as to prove the point.

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NEW FILMS

BELOVED (15) Director: Jonathan Demme

Starring: Oprain Winfrey, Danny Glover

If film lives in a boldly naturalistic plane, prose inhabits an altogether more oblique and shadowy realm. And so Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered Pulitzer Prizewinner was always going to make for an uneasy marriage; hopping shakily between unfront Repertory: National Film Theatre dramatics and mysticism. Oprah Winfrey stars as an escaped slave struggling to cope with a visite Im from a bewitched voodoo child (Thandie THE 39 STEPS (PG) Newton) who may (or may not) be the ghost of her dead daughter. Still, there's much to admire in Beloved's three hours of muddle its fabulist take on black oppression, its gumbo of pungent human drama with overheated horrorflick shenanigans. Heartfelt acting and a vibrant British period (although The Lody Vonishes visual sense paper over all manner of cracks. West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village. And local cinemas

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15) Director: Thomas Vinterberg Starring: Ulrich Thomsen, Helge Moritzen See The Independent Recommends, right. West End: Chelsea Cinema, Clapham Picture House, Curson Soho, Screen on Baker Street

KINI AND ADAMS (NC) Director: Idassa Ouédraogo Starring: David Mohloki, Vusi Kuneni The first English-language offering from acciaimed Burkina Faso director Idrissa Quédraogo, Kini and Adams looks to spotlight a career

in transition. This African odd-couple comedy turns its back on Quédraogo's traditionally stark, folk-tale milieu, and ropes in two professional actors in David Mohloki and Vusi Kuneni's squabbling adventurers. But the director's soulful style is stymied by a script that is, at times, clankingly schematic and crudely drawn. The natural magic slowly seeps away.

Director: Alfred Hitchcock

Starring: Robert Donat, Madeleine Carroll, Godfrey Tearle, Peggy Ashcroft, Lucie Mannheim Filmed back in 1935. The 39 Steps stands aroud as the most polished pic of Hitchcock's early, comes awfully close). Thereafter, he would light out for Hollywood and his films would become both more glossy and more morally oblique. The 39 Steps, by contrast, offers classic Bous' Own adventure, riffing off John Buchan's source novel to produce a gadabout spy yarn that huris Robert Donat and Madeleine Carroll's handcuffedtogether runaways into a Scotland that's bursting with oddball eccentrics. The film is as light and bracing as oxygen: all witty twists, throwaway lines and crisp observations as it builds towards a climactic crescendo at the London Palladium. Legend has it that Hitchcock insisted on handcuffing Donat to Carroll before filming began, just so they could get used to being together, and then ran off with the key. Tsk, those auteur directors. Never too highbrow for the odd piayground prank. West End: Barbican Screen

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy concerns the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the centre of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

The Thin Red Line (15) Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a

20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Affliction (15)

Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, adapted from Russell Banks's novel, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad (James Coburn).

Shakespeare in **Love** (15)

This enjoyable romp suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for Romeo and Juliet. Joseph Fiennes and Gwyneth Paltrow (above) head a multi-star cast.

The Opposite of Sex (18) Christina Ricci plays 16-year-old bitch-on-wheels Dedee, shooting from the lip and causing all kinds of havoc when she moves in with her mild-

mannered half-brother (Martin Donovan).

ANTHONY OUTN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Copenhagen

(Duchess Theatre, London) Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. To 7 Ang

Oklahoma! (Lyceum Theatre, London) Widely regarded as the best ever, Trevor Nunn's glorious production of the Rodgers and Hammerstein classic (right) fully deserves its West End transfer. To 26 hor

The Memory of Water (Vaudeville Theatre, London)

Alison Steadman pulls off one of the funniest, truest drunk scenes ever in Shelagh Stephenson's fine play about sisters brought together for their mother's funeral. To 22 May

The Dispute (The Other Place, Stratford) Marivaux's mordant 18th-century play about a sexual experiment is brought to life in this RSC/Lyric Hammersmith co-production. To 20 Mar

A Passionate Woman (Leicester Haymarket)

Genuinely funny and moving, Kay Mellor's play is much more than a Shirley Valentine re-run as penned by some cut-price Alan Bennett. To 20 Mar

PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery) Some of the most intense portraiture ever (right). Women: exquisite mélang of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money.

To 25 Apr



Patrick Caulfield (Hayward Gallery) Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range, notably those laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. To 11 Apr

Peter Doig & Udomsak Krisanamis (Fruitmarket, Edinburgh)

Two painters collaborate. Doig's sizzling, curdling, overloaded landscapes mix with Krisanamis's collages of cultural detritus and noodles. To 27 Mar

Richard Deacon (Tate Gallery, Liverpool)

"New World Order": more curvaceous assemblages of wood, metal, glass and plastic - some gigantic. some humble - by the noted Eighties sculptor. What do they mean? No one knows. To 16 May

Disasters of War (Wolverhampton Art Gallery)*

Three ages of European war through the etchings of Jacques Callot, Goya and Otto Dix. Black-andwhite visions from the blackest of times. To 20 Mar

TOM LUBBOCK

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15) See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Renoir

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

A Bug's Life sees humble insect Flik joining a flea circus in an effort to save his community from marauding grasshoppers. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Od.,on Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, PRACTICAL MAGIC (12) Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero,

Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the backdrop of 1970s Morocco treads Kate Winslet's single-mum, her two daughters in tow. Winslet does well with a change-of-pace role and the child stars are startlingly good. West End: ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Renoir, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Well Hall Coronet

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Oscar-nominated actresses Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson. sustains Anand Tucker's warts and all bionic of the Du Pre sisters. West End: Curzon Soho Repertory: Phoenix Cinema. And local cinemas

G (Eddie Murphy) as a frontman on his shopping show and sales go through the roof. G, in turn, teaches Ricky a few soulful lessons. Parts of Hoby Man are very funny, but the film never quite finds the right tone. West End: Odeon Marble Arch, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

HOW STELLA GOT HER GROOVE BACK (15) Essentially this is Shirley Valentine with an Afro-American spin, but Angela Bassett works hard to the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin make an impression among the slide-show of Fulham Road And local cinemas tourist-brochure visuals. West End: Ritzy Cinema, Virgin Trocadero, And local cinemas

JACK FROST (PG)

Michael Keaton stars as a self-obsessed blues-man who dies and gets reincarnated as a snowman. Formula family fim. West End: UCI Whitelens Wd 'er Village West End. And local cinemas

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG) In Roberto Benigni's comedy, the writer-director takes centre-stage as a clowning Jewish bookshop keeper in fascist Italy. He is spirited off to the death camps and strives to convince his son that it's nothing more than a game. West End: Curzon Maufair, Curzon Soho, Odeon Kensinaton, Ritzu Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

LITTLE VOICE (15)

Holed up in her bedroom, Jane Horrocks perfects Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, Horrocks' vocal pyrotechnics, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push Little Voice through to the final curtain. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road. Odeon Swiss Cottage. Odeon West End. Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

LOVED (15)

Erin Dignam's Loved has been collecting dust on distributors' shelves for nearly two years, not because it's bad, but because it's so subtly unclassifiable. Robin Wright Penn plays an abused ex-girlfriend called upon by lawyer William Hurt to testify against her brutal former boyfriend. Loved paints troubled relationships for what they are: complex, charged and inextricably entwined. West End: ABC Piccadilly

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: Virgin Fulham Road, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

PAINTED ANGELS (15)

The angels are whores; the paint from the gloomier end of the palette. Jon Sanders' revisionist western revolves around a frontier brothel presided over by Brenda Fricker's no-nonsense madam. Earthy, naturalistic acting goes hand-in-hand with Gerald Packer's evocative visuals, though the resolutely downbeat handling makes it slow going at times. West End: Renoir

PERDITA DURANGO (18)

Alex De La Iglesia's quasi-sequel to Lynch's Wild of Heart is a strutting Tex-Mex caper, running on a kind of posturing wackiness. Rosie Pérez acquits herself well as the vixenish heroine who abducts a pair of all-American virgins, while Live Flesh's Javier Bardem glowers from beneath a comedy wig. It's camp, garish and annoyingly entertaining. West End: Metro, Odeon Camden Town

Essentially a sibling soap-opera with a dash of mumbo-jumbo, Practical Magic sees Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman cast as two mismatched sisters raised from a line of witches and hexing any unlucky man who swings into their orbit. West End: Warner Village West End

THE PRINCE OF EGYPT (U)

In planning his cartoon life of Moses, DreamWorks honcho Jeffrey Katzenberg envisaged it "painted by Claude Monet and photographed by David Lean". The end result winds up as The Ten Commandments by way of Joseph and His Technicolor Dreamcoat. West End: Empire Leicester Square. And local cinemas

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Empire Leicester Square, Notting Hill Caronet, Odeon Camden Town, Jeff Goldblum plays Ricky, a scuzzball TV executive. Odeon Kensington, Odeon Morble Arch, Odeon Fearful for his job. Ricky uses spiritual wanderer Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Trocadero. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above West End: Clapham Picture House, Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odean Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

A cast of Britain's finest (Kathy Burke, Ian Hart, Douglas Henshall et al) weave through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. Although generally witty and well-observed, the film cranks what might have been a sublime one-hour teleplay into double its natural length, West End: Clophom Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage. Odeon West End. Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, And local cinemas

TITANIC TOWN 15)

All aboard for Troubles-hit Belfast, circa 1972. The IRA and British forces are taking potshots at each other in the streets. Civilians are dying in the crossfire. To the rescue comes Julie Walters' concerned local mum, who lobbies for a ceasefire and finds herself caught between the opposing factions. For a film implicitly about rage and waste, it's a little low on dramatic comph. West End: ABC Swiss Centre. Local: Kilburn Tricycle Cinema

URBAN LEGEND (18)

Jamie Blanks' new stalk-and-slash romp clones Scream's ties, twists and in-jokes in much the same way that its campus killer mimics the crimes of popular myth. The result is a strangely bland and inconsequential bloodbath: fresh-faced teens meeting their grisly end in a drama as cold and schematic as a daytime talk show. West End: UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Riffing off the template of her earlier Sleepless in Seattle, director Nora Ephron ushers her favourite pairing of Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan through a contrived romantic comedy that's zapped out of its old-fashioned rut by a shrewd Internet plot hook. West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road. Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Screen on Baker Street. UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsen, Virgin Fulham Road. Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero. Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from In the Company of Men director Neil LaBute, which looks like a carbon copy of the director's debut. West End: Metro, Virgin Haymarket. Local: Elephant & Castle Coronet

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-902 0404) Θ Piccadilly
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm,
8.15pm Lock, Stock & Two
Smoking Barrels 1.15pm,
3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm π (PI)
1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm wo Giris and a Guy 4pm, 8.45pm

CINEMA

WEST END

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322 (from 1pm)
Piccadilly Circus Buffalo 66
3.30pm, 8.15pm Hamam: The
Turkish Bath 1.25pm, 6pm Loved
1.30pm, 3.55pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm

ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE (0870-902 0402) ← Leicester Square Affliction 1.10pm, 3.40рт, 6.05рт, 8.30рт ABC SWISS CENTRE

ABC SWMSS CENTRE
(0870-902 0403) & Leicester
Square/Piccadilly Grous Hideous
Kinky 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.35pm,
8.45pm I Think I Do 1.10pm,
3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm,
9.10pm Titanic Town 2.25pm,
4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm La Vie
Revée des Anges 1.25pm,
3.45pm, 6.05pm, 8.25pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD

ABC TOTTEMENTAL COURT ROAD
(0870-902 0414) & Tottenham
Court Road A Bug's Life 1.20pm,
4pm, 6.40pm Little Voice 9pm
Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm,
3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.25pm You've
Got M@II 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.20pm,
9.15pm BARBICAN SCREEN (0171-638 8891) & Moorgate

The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 6.30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 6pm, 8.40pm CHELSEA CINEMA

quare Festen 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE (0171-498 3323) \varTheta Clapham 2.15pm, 9.10pm mmon. Festen 6.50pm, 4.30pm. 9.30pm. 9.10pm 5hakespeare in Love 4.15pm, 9.20pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm. 4.45pm. 8.15pm This Voar's Love 1.45pm. 6.40pm You've Got M@# 1.30pm. 4pm.

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(0171-369 1723) O Hyde Park Corner/Knightsbridge Elizabeth Corner/Knightsbridge 3pm, 6.30pm, 8.50pm CURZON SOHO

CURZON SOHO (0171-734 2255 (12noon-6pm)) © Leicester Square Festen 2.15pm, 4.30pm, 7pm, 9.30pm, Hilary and Jackle 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm La Vita è Bella 1pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9pm EMPIRE LEICESTER SQUARE

(0990-888990) O Leicester Square Meet Joe Black 12noon, 3.40pm, 7.20pm The Prince of Egypt 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.15pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.45pm GATE NOTTING HILL

(0171-727 4043) & Notting Hill Gate The Thin Red Line 1.10pm. 4.30pm, 7.50pm

(0171-734 1506) © Piccadilly Circus Perdita Durango 2.30pm, 4.45pm, 7pm, 9.15pm Your Friends and Neighbors 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm NOTTING HILL CORONET (0171-727 6705) @ Notting Hill Gate Shakespeare in 2.45pm, 5.45pm, 8.30pm

ODEON CAMDEN TOWN (08705-050007) ← Camden Town (08705-050007) & Camden fown Beloved 7.50pm A Bug's Life 11.55am, 2.15pm, 4.35pm Shakespeare in Love 12.15pm, 2.55pm, 5.40pm, 8.20pm The Thin Red Line 11.55am, 3.25pm, 7.50pm This Year's Love 12.55pm, 3.25pm, 6.05pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 12.25pm, 3pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm

ODEON HAYMARKET Circus Stepmom 12 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm 12.35pm. ODEON KENSINGTON

(08705-050007) ↔ High Street Kensington Beloved 8.30pm A Bug's Life 12.45pm, 3.15pm. A Bug's Life 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.25pm, 6.20pm, 9.15pm The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 5.05pm, 8.45pm This Year's Love 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.40pm La Vitza è Bella 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@il 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm 3.40pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm

ODEON LEICESTER SQUARE (08705-050007) & Leicester Square The Thin Red Une 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.45pm

ODEON MARBLE ARCH ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(08705-050007) & Marble Arch
A Bug's Life 1.55pm, 4.05pm,
6.30pm Enemy of the State
9.05pm Shakespeare In Love
12.55pm, 3.35pm, 6.20pm,
9.10pm The Thin Red Line
1.05pm, 4.40pm, 8.15pm This
Vear's Love 1.25pm, 4pm, 6.40pm,
9.15pm You've Got M@II
12.45pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9pm

5.35pm, 8.20pm Lock, Stock & Timo Smoking Barrels 1.25pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm The Siege 1.15pm, 3.40pm, 6.05pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 12.45pm, 3.15pm, 5.45pm, 8.20pm

ODEON SWISS COTTAGE

PEPSI IMAX CINEMA (0171-494 4153) ♥ Piccadilly Circus Everest 4.45pm, 9.05pm L5 (IMAX) 2.40pm, 7pm T-Rex: Back to the Cretaceous (3-D) 1.35pm, 3.40pm, 5.45pm, 8pm,

PLAZA (0990-888990) & Piccadilly Circus A Bug's Life 1.35pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Saving Private Ryan 12.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm Star Trek: Insurrection 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

(0171-837 8402) O Russell Square Affliction 1.35pm, 3.55pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm Hideous Kinky 1.50pm, 6.35pm Painted Angels 4.10pm, 8.55pm

RITZY CINEMA (0171-733 2229) BR/O Brixton Beloved 1.45pm, 5.15pm, 3.40pm A Bug's Life 2.20pm, 4.40pm The Fountainhead 4.40pm The Fountainhead 2.30pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm, 4.25pm, 6.50pm, 9.25pm The Thin Red Line 1.50pm, 5.10pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 4.35pm, 6.55pm, 9.10pm La Vita è Bella 6.45pm, 9.15pm

SCREEN ON BAKER STREET

SCREEN ON THE GREEN

SCREEN ON THE HILL. (0171-435 3366) & Belsize Park La Vita è Bella 2.15pm, 4.30pm, UCI WHITELEYS (0990-888990) & Baysw Beloved 1.15pm, 5.05

Beloved 1.15pm, 5.05pm, 8.40pm A Bug's Life 11.45am, 2pm, 4.30pm, 7pm Hideous Kinky 12.15pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Madeline 1.35pm Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.40pm, 8.30pm This Year's Love 3.40pm, 6.30pm 9pm Lithan 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9pm Urban Legend 9.20pm La Vita è Bella 12noon, 3.10pm, 6pm, 8.50pm You've Got M@il 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.20pm, 9.10pm

VIRGIN CHELSEA (0870-907 0710) ← Sloane Square/South Kensington A Bug's Life 2.35pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.30pm 8pm This Year's Love 9.20pm La Vita e Beila 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 9pm You've Got M@ti 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.55pm

ARGIN FULHAM ROAD (0870-907 0711) 👄 Hideous 2.20pm, 4.40pm, 7pm, 9.20pm Little Voice 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm The Opposite of Sex 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9-30pm, 5-30pm, 6-30pm, 9-30pm, 5-30pm, 5-30pm, 5-30pm, 6pm, 8-50pm
The Thin Red Line 1.40pm, 5-10pm, 8-40pm You've Got M@il 1pm, 3-40pm, 6-20pm, 9-10pm

VIRGIN HAYMARKET (0870-907 0712) © Piccadilly Circus La Vita è Bella 12.50pm, 3.20pm, 5.50pm, 8.25pm Your Friends and Neighbors 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.55pm, 8.45pm

5.55pm, 8.45pm VIRGIN TROCADERO

WARNER VILLAGE WEST END WARRIER VILLAGE WEST END (0171-437 4343) & Leicester Square Beloved 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.20pm A Bug's Life 12.10pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7pm, 9.25pm Bufworth 3.45pm, 8.50pm Holy Man 1.10pm, 6.20pm The Opposite of Sex 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 1.30om, 4.15om, 6.55om 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.40pm Practical Magic 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.55pm, Urban Legend 11.55am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.10pm Very Bad Things 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 9.05pm You've Got M@I.12noon, 1pm, 2.50pm, 3.40pm, 5.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 9.20pm, 9.35pm:

> CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

ACTON
PARK ROYAL WARNER VILLAGE
(0181-896 0056) & Park RoyalBelowed 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 8.15pm
A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.25pm. 8 30om Holy N un 3.20om. 9.50om 8.30pm Holy Man 3.20pm, 9.50pm How Stella Got her Groove Back 12.40pm, 5.50pm Shakespeare In Love 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 1.30pm, 4.25pm, 5.10pm, 7.50pm, 8.35pm This Year's Love 12.40pm, 5.50pm Urban Legend 2pm, 4.30pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm You've Got M@il 1pm, 3.30pm, 6.15pm, 9pm

ODEON (08705-050007) + High Barnet A Bug's Life 2pm, 4pm, 6pm Hilary and Jackie 4.10pm, 8.45pm Hilary and Jacke 4.1 Upm, 6.45pm Little Volce 8.30pm Patch Adams 6.30pm Shakespeare in Love 1.20pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm The Thin Red Line 1.25pm, 4.45pm, 7.55pm This Year's Love 1.45pm, 6.30pm Titanic 2.30pm, 7.30pm You've Got M@II 1.15pm, 3.40pm, .6.25pm, 8.50pm

BECKENHAM ABC (0870-902 0412) BR: Beckenham Junction A Bug's Life 12.15pm, 4.40pm, 6.50pm Little Voice 2.35pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 2pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm There's Something About Mary 11am, 6.20pm You's Got M@il 1.45pm, 8.35pm

CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR: Bedeyheath A Bug's Life 12noon, 1.15pm, 2.20pm, 3.30pm, 5.40pm, 7.50pm, 9.50pm Little Volce 2.15pm, 7pm Shakespeare in Love 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Stepmon 1.20pm, 4pm, 6.45pm, 9.35pm The Thin Red Line J.30pm, 4.30pm, 5.25pm, 7.55pm, 8.55pm This Year's Love 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.40pm Urban Legend 12.45pm, 2.55pm, 5.10pm, 7.25pm, 9.45pm La Vita è Bella 4.30pm, 9.15pm You've Got M@ff 12.25pm, 2.50pm, 5.10pm, 7.30pm, 9.50pm CINEWORLD (0181-303 1550) BR:

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Brom-ley North A Bug's Life 1.55pm, 4.10pm, 6.25pm Shakespeare in Love 2.20pm, 5.55pm, 8.40pm The Thin Red Line 12.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.50pm This Year's Love 8.45pm You've Got M@fi 12.20pm, 3pm,

ABC (0181-698 3306) BR: Catford A Bug's Life 6pm This Year's Love 2.30pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@ll

CLOCKTOWER (0181-253 1030) BR: East Croydon Hilary and Jack-le 3.15pm. 5.50pm, 8,25pm CROYDON SAFARI (0181-688 3422) BR: West Croydon. A Bug's Life 5.40pm Doll Sajake Rakina 8pm Holy Man 5.30pm, 8.15pm Lit-tie Voice 5.45pm, 8.10pm

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-680 8090) BR: East Croydon A Bug's Life 12.55pm, 3.35pm, 6.30pm. 8.50pm Holy Man 12,30pm, 6pm Shake-speare in Love 12,35pm, 3,20pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm Stepmom 3.10pm, 6.15pm, 9.15pm Stepmorn 3.10pm, 9pm The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 3.50pm, 4.50pm, 7.40pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.20pm, 7pm 9.50pm Urban Legend 1.40pm, 6.50pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@II 12.45pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.25pm G.30pm, 9pm This Yea

DAGENHAM WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-592 2020) & Dagenham Heathway Belowed 2pm, 5.20pm, 8.50pm A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.30pm Holy Man 4.30pm, 9.20pm Shakespeare in Love 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm Stepmom 2pm, 6.50pm The Thin Red Line 1.30pm, 2pm, 4.50pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm, 8.55pm This Year's Love 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Urban Legend 3pm, 5.20pm, 7.30pm, 9.40pm You've Got M@ii 1.50pm, 4.15pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm EALING VIRGIN UXBRIDGE ROAD (0870-

Virgin Uksanose ROAD (0870-907 0719) BR/& Ealing Broadway A Bug's Life 1.45pm, 3.55pm Shakespeare in Love 6.10pm, 8.50pm The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 4.40pm, 8.15pm You've Got M@il 2.20pm, 5.40pm, 8.30pm BELLE-VUE (0181-381 2556) & Edgware A Bug's Life 5.40pm Kachche Dhaage phone for times Kuch Kuch Hota Hai phone for times Aa Ab Laut Chalen phone for times Stepmom 5.15pm, 8.15pm 7akhm phone for times Zakhm phone for times

EDMONTON LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-LEE VALLEY UCI 12 (0990-888990)

Tottenham Hale Beloved 1.45pm, 5.40pm, 9.20pm A Bug's Life 1.05pm, 1.30pm, 2pm, 3.25pm, 4.05pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7.05pm, 8.50pm How Stella-Got her Groove Back 8.25pm Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte Hain 9.30pm Jack Frost 2.50pm, 5.20pm Little Voice 12.50pm, 3.45pm, 6.40pm Madeline 2.15pm Shakespeare in Love 9.40pm Stepmom 4.20pm, 7.20pm, 10.05pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, Line 1.15pm, 2.30pm, 4.50pm, pm. 8.35p 12.40pm, 3.05pm, 6.10pm, 9.15pm Urban Legend 7.55pm, 10.20pm La Vita è Bella 1.15pm, 3.55pm, 6.55pm, 9.55pm You've Got M@II 12,30pm, 3.15pm,

6.20pm, 9.05pm **ELEPHANT AND CASTLE** ELEPHANT AND CASTLE
CORONET (0171-703 4968) &
Elephant & Castle A Bug's Life 4pm,
6.30pm, 8.40pm This Year's Love
4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm Your
Friends And Neighbors 4.15pm,
6.35pm, 8.45pm,
8.45pm,
8.45pm

FELTHAM CINEWORLD MOVIES (0181-867

0555) BR: Feltham Aa Ab Laut Chalen 11.10am, 2.35pm, 6.15pm, 9.45nm Beloved 11.30am, 2.40pm 9.45pm Beloved 11.30am, 2.40pm, 6pm, 8.15pm A Bug's Life 11.30am, 12.50pm, 1.45pm, 3pm, 4pm, 5.10pm, 7.20pm, 9.20pm Daag 2.30pm, 9.20pm Holy Man 11.30am, 5pm Hum Aapke Dil Meln Rehte Hain 12.15pm, 3.50pm, 9pm Kachche Dhaage 11am, 5.15pm Kaun 9.50pm Lai Baadshah 11.30am, 3pm, 6.20pm, 9.50pm La Waris 2pm, 8.30pm Lite 1.30pm, 3pm, 6.20pm, 9.50pm La Waris 2pm, 8.30pm Lite 1.30pm, 5.20pm, 9.50pm Lai Waris 2pm, 8.30pm Lite 1.30pm, 9.50pm 9.50pm Lite 1.30pm, 9.50pm Lite 1.30pm, 9.50pm, 9.50p padosnan 11.30am, spm, 6.20pm, 9.50pm La Waris 2pm, 8.30pm Lit-tle Voice 6pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Shahbed-E-Mohabbat 7.10pm Snanned-E-Monatobat 11.15am, 6pm Stepmom 2pm, 7.30pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.30pm, 6.10pm, 8pm, 9.40pm This Year's Love 11.30am, 1.45pm, 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.55pm Urban Legend 12.05pm, 2.25pm, 5.10pm 7.20pm, 9.40pm La Vita è Bella 4pm, 6.35pm You've Got M@I 11.10am, 1.50pm, 4.25pm, 7pm,

FINCHLEY
WARNER VILLAGE FINCHLEY
ROAD (0171-604 3059) & Finchley Road A Bug's Life 10.30am.
1.30pm. 4pm. 6.10pm. 8.20pm
Holy Man 4.35pm. 9.30pm The
Opposite of Sex 2.20pm. 7pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm.
3.35pm. 6.15pm. 9.15pm The
Thin Red Line 1pm. 2pm. 4.25pm.
5.30pm. 8pm. 9pm This Year's
Love 1.15pm. 3.40pm. 6.20pm.
8.40pm Urban Legend 2.15pm.
4.45pm. 7.10pm. 9.40pm You've
Got M@il 12.40pm. 3.25pm. Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.50pm

WARNER VILLAGE NORTH FINCH-LEY (0181-446 9344) & East Finch-ley/Finchley Central A Bug's Life 12.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9pm 12.50pm, 3.50pm, 6.50pm, 9pm Shakespeare in Love 1.10pm, 4pm, 6.35pm, 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 1.20pm, 4.30pm, 5.10pm, 8.10pm, 8.50pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.20pm, 6.40pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend 2.10pm, 4.50pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm La Vira è Belia 1.75pm, 4pm, 7pm La Vita è Bella 1,25pm, 4pm, 7pm, 9,40pm, You've Got M@II 1pm, 3,40pm, 6,30pm, 9,20pm

GOLDERS GREEN ABC (0181-455 1724) ← Golders Green You've Got M@II 2,45pm, 5.30pm, 8.15pm

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GREENWICH GREENWICH CINEMA (0181-293 0101) BR: Greenwich Shakespeare in Love 7pm The Thin Red Line 4.30pm, 8pm This Year's Love 4.40pm, 9.20pm You've Got M@0

HAMMERSMITH VIRGIN (0870-907 0718) & Raven scourt Park A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm Shakespeare in Love 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm This Year's Love 9pm You've Got M@I 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.15pm, 8.50pm

HAMPSTEAD ABC (0870-902 0413) & Beisize Park A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.20pm Shakespeare in Love 5.15pm, 8.15pm Tais Year's Love 1.25pm, 8.30pm You've Got M@II 2pm, 5.40pm. 8.20pm

SAFARI CINEMA (0181-426 0303) ◆ Harrow-on-the-Hill Doll Sajake Rakhna 8.45pm Fire 8.45pm Hum Azoke Dii Mein Rehte Hain 1.30om

WARNER VILLAGE (0181-427 9009) & Harrow on Hill Belowed 1,40pm, 5.10pm, 8.40pm A Bug's Life 11am, 1.30pm, 4pm, 6.20pm, 8.50pm Shakespeare in Love 1pm, 3.40pm, 6.40pm, 9.30pm Stepmom 4.20pm, 9.50pm The Thin Red Line 12noon, 12.20pm, 3.30pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 8pm This Year's Love 12,50pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm Urban Legend 11,40am, 2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm La Vita è Bella 1.20pm, 7.20pm You've Got M@ll 12.30pm,

3.20pm, 6,10pm, 9pm HOLLOWAY ODEON (08705-050007) + Hol-ODEON (08705-050007) → Holloway Road Beloved 12.35pm.
4.15pm, 7.45pm A Bug's Life
12.15pm, 1.05pm, 2.20pm,
3.25pm,4.25pm,5.45pm 8.45pm
Holy Mart 1.40pm, 4pm How
Stella Got her Groove Back
8.30pm Little Voice 6.20pm
Shakespears in Love 3.05pm Shakespeare in Love 3.05pm, 12.50pm, 4.20pm, 7.50pm This

8.50pm Urban Legend 6.35pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, ODEON (08705-050007) & Gants Hill A Bug's Life 2pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.50pm Fire 1.40pm, 4.10pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Shakespeare in Love 2.50pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm The Thin Red Line

Year's Love 1pm, 3,35pm, 6,10pm,

12.30pm, 4pm, 7.30pm You've Got M@8 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.20pm (0171-328 1000) ↔ Kilbum Titanic Town 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

KINGSTON ABC OPTIONS (0870-902 0409) BR: Kingston A Bug's Life 5.35pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.10pm This Year's Love 2.15pm, 8.20pm You've Got M@il 2.10pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm

ODEON (08705-050007) + High-

MUSWELL HILL

gate A Bug's Life 2.15pm, 4.25pm, 6.30pm The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 4.35pm, 7.50pm This Yes 3.45pm You've Got M@il 2.30pm. 5.30pm, 8.30pm PECKHAM PECKHAM PREMIER (0181-235 3006) BR: Peckham Rye Beloved

5.05pm, 8.30pm A Bug's Life 5pm, 5.Uspm, 8.3Upm A Bug's Lire Spm, 7pm Enemy of State 11.50pm Holy Man 4.20pm, 6.50pm, 9.20pm, 11.50pm How Stella Got her Groove Back 9.05pm, 11.40pm Shakespeare in Love 7.15pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.45pm, 9.30pm You've Got M@il 4.15pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm, 11.45pm **PURLEY**

A Bug's Life 6pm Hilary and Jack-ie 5.10pm, 7.55pm Shakespeare in Love 8.15pm You've Got M@il 5pm PUTNEY ABC (0870-902 0401) ⊕ Putney Bridge A Bug's Life 1.15pm Shakepeare in Love 2.15pm, 5.30pm, 15pm This Year's Love 3.45pm,

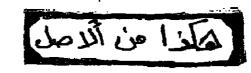
ABC (0870-902 0407) BR: Purley

6.15pm, 8.45pm You've Got M@I ODEON (08705-050007) BR/O Richmond Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.20pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm The Thin Red Line 12.50pm, 4.30pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@N

1pm, 3.50pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm **ODEON STUDIO (08705-050007)** BR/O Richmond Beloved 1pm, 4.30pm, 8.20pm A Bug's Life 2.30pm, 4.50pm, 7.10pm, 9.30pm Hilary and Jackie 1.40pm, 7pm Lictle Voice 4.20pm, 9.30pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.10pm,

ROMFORD ABC (0870-902 0419) BR: Romford A Bug's Life 4.40pm Holy Man 2.30pm, 8.15pm Jack Frost 6pm This Year's Love 2.15pm, 8.35pm You've Got M@il 2.25pm, 5.30pm.

6.40pm, 9.20pm



tire histo eral beer reviled. of Lord Lord Br to attac Dalek" "pseudc method Among Hussey, the BB during v first de then dir Hus the coir of The

drowni perpet money those a nected making "for th the me not thi got its Thi: height ieties himse drama writer nor, w mana trolled cretiv too in "that gon v ODEON LIBERTY 2 (08705-050007) BR: Romford Beloved 7.50pm A Bug's Life .15pm. 2pm. 2.30pm, 4.20pm. 4.45pm, 6.30pm, 6.50pm, 8.40pm Holy Man 12.45pm, 3.30pm Little Voice 9pm Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm, 3.10pm, 5.45pm, 8.15pm Stepmom 12.10pm The Thin Red Line 12.45pm. 4.15pm. 7.45pm This Year's Love 1.30pm, 4.10pm 6.30pm, 8.50pm Urban Legend 6.45pm, 9pm You've Got M@il 12.30pm, 3.15pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

SIDCUP ABC (0541-555131) BR: Sidcup A Bug's Life 6pm Shakespeare in Love 8.20pm You've Got M@!! 5.15pm, 8.15pm

STAPLES CORNER VIRGIN (0870-907 0717) BR: Crick-lewood A Bug's Life 1pm. 3.30pm. 6pm, 8.30pm Shakespeare in Love 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.50pm The Thin This Year's Love 1.30om, 4pm. 6.30pm, 9pm Urban Legend 2pm, 4.20pm, 6.45pm, 9.15pm You've Got M@if 1pm, 3.45pm, 6.20pm, 9pm

STRATFORD NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE (0181-555 3366) BR/O Stratford East A Bug's Life 2pm. 4.15pm, 6.30pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.30pm, 8pm This Year's Love 1.30pm. 4pm, 6.30pm, 9pm La Vita e Bella 8.30pm You've Got M@li 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

STREATHAM ABC (0870-902 0415) BR: Streatham Hill Hilary and Jackte 2.10pm, 5.25pm, 8.15pm The Opposite of Sex 2.20pm, 5.25pm, 8.35pm Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm, 5.35pm, 8.25pm

ODEON (08705-050007) BR: Streatham Hill/O Brixton The Add House 12.30pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm Beloved 12.45pm, 4.15pm, 7.45pm A Bug's Life 2.35pm 4.50pm, 6.55pm The Thin Red Line 12.40pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm This Year's Love 8.50pm You've Got M@il 12.40pm, 3.15pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm

SURREY QUAYS SURREY QUAYS (0990 888990) & Surrey Quays Beloved 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.55pm A Bug's Life 1pm, 2pm, 3.30pm, 4.30pm, 6pm, 7pm, 8.15pm How Stella Got Har Groves Back, 8.45pm, Marker Stella Got Her Groove Back 9.45pm My Name is Joe 1.20pm, 3.40pm, 6.10pm, 8.25pm Shakespeare in Love 12.45pm, 4pm, 6.45pm 9.30pm The Thin Red Line 1.15pm, 4.50pm, 8.35pm This Year's Love 2.30pm. 5pm. 7.20pm. 10pm Ur-ban Legend 7.10pm. 9.40pm You've Got M@ii 12.30pm. 3.15pm. 6.30pm. 9.15pm

SUTTON UCI 6 (0990-888990) BR: Surton/ Morden A Bug's Life 12.50pm, 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.20pm Little Voice 3.40pm, 8.50pm Madeline 9.55am, 12noon, 3pm My Name is Joe 6.20 Shakespeare in Love 12.35pm, 4.05pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm Stepmorn 1.05pm 5.45pm The Thin Red Line 1.20pm, 4.50pm, 8.35pm This Year's Love 1.35pm. 3.55pm, 9.45pm You've Got M@[] 12.20pm, 3.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.15pn

CORONET (0181-888 2519) & Turnpile Lane. A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm. 8.40pm This Year's Love 4.05pm, 6.20pm, 8.35pm You've Got M@i 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

UXERIDGE ODEON (08705-050007) - Uxbridge A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4.15pm, 6.20pm The Thin Red Line 1pm, 4.25pm, 7.50pm You've Got M@il

WALTHAMSTOW ABC (0870-902 0424) Walthamstow Central A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.05pm Shakespeare in Love 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm Sliding Doors 8.45pm This Year's Love 5.05pm, 8.15pm

WALTON-ON-THAMES THE SCREEN AT WALTON (01932-252825) BR: Walton-on-Thames The Thin Red Line 3pm, 7.30pm You've Got M@il 3.25pm, 6pm, 8.30pm

WELL HALL CORONET (0181-850 33511 BR: Eltham A Bug's Life 4pm, 6.30pm, 8.40pm Hideous Kinky 4.10pm, 6.20pm, 8.45pm

WILLESDENBELLE-VUE (0181-830 0822) ↔ Willesden Green A Bug's Life 4.30pm Stepmom 6.20pm, 9pm

WIMBLEDON ODEON (08705-050007) BR/+ Wimbledon A Bug's Life 1.10pm, 3.05pm, 5pm, 6.55pm Elizabeth 11am Little Voke 8.50pm Lock, Stock & Tiwo Smoking Barrels 11am Shakespeare in Love 2.30pm. 5.35pm. 8.20pm The Thin Red Lin 12.50pm, 4.10pm, 7.40pm This Year's Love 6.10pm, 8.40pm The Truman Show 11am You've Got M@a

12.25pm, 3.10pm, 5.50pm, 8.30pm **WOOD GREEN** NEW CURZON (0181-347 6664) @ Turnpike Lane Daag 2pm Kachche Dhaage 5.30pm. 8.45pm

WOODFORD MOODI-ORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) © South
Woodford A Bug's Life 5.50pm Hi-lary and Jackie 2 50pm, 8.15pm
Shakespeare In Love 2.40pm,
5 30pm, 8.10pm You've Got M@il
2.30pm, 5.20pm, 8.10pm

WOOLWICH CORONET (0181-854 5043) BR: Woolwich Arsenal A Bug's Life 4µm, 6 30pm, 8.40pm You've Got M@ii 3.30pm, 6pm, 8.25pm

CINEMA REPERTORY

LONDON ICA CINEMA The Mail. SW1 (0171-930 3647) Chronicle of a Love Affair (NC) 6.30pm Homework (18) 7pm L'Avventura (PG) 8.30pm The Cyclist (Bicycleran) (U) 9pm

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3232) Night Mayor/Washington Merry-Go-Round: Anything Goes (NC) 6pm 1 Want You (18) 2.30pm, 6.30pm The Monster: Sit-Corn Programme: Television (NC) 7.30pm Kini and Adams (NC) 8.40pm Heavy Rotation 2: Digital Underground (NC)

PHOENIX CINEMA High Road, N2 (0181-444 6789) Hilary and Jack-ie (15) 3pm, 6.10pm, 8.50pm

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place, WC2 (0171-437 8181) The English Patient (15) 12.30pm What Dreams May Come (15) 3.45pm U-Turn (18) 6.15pm Fear and ng in Las Vegas (18) 9.10pm

RIO CINEMA Kingsland High Street. E8 (0171-254 6677) Closed

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100) When the Cat's Away (15) 6.45pm + L'Appartement 8.40pm

WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE High Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181) 568-1176) Shakespeare in Low (15) 4.30pm, 9pm La Vica è Bel-

BRIGHTON

BRISTOL

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA (01273-602503) La Vita è Bella (PG) 6.30pm Your Friends and Neighbors (18) 4.15pm, 8.50pm

CUBE CINEMA (0114-907 4191) Buffalo 66 (15) 6.30pm, 8.45pn WATERSHED (0117-925 3845) Mother Dao: The Turtle-Like (NC) 6.10pm La Classe de Neige (15)

8.20pm La Vita è Bella (PG) 3pm 6pm, 8.30pm CAMBRIDGE ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444) La

Vita e Bella (PG) 12.15pm, 7.10pm The Searchers (PG) 5pm CARDIFF CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-

399666) x (PI) (15) 7.30pm Rien Ne Va Plus (15) 8pm CHICHESTER NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-786650) Meet Joe Black (12) 2.15pm Hilary and Jackie (15)

IPSWICH FILM THEATRE (01473-215544) Howards End (PG) 2.30pm La Classe de Neige (15) 6pm. 8.15pmHideous Kinky (15)

PLYMOUTH PLYMOUTH ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114) Left Luggage

6.15pm, 8.30pm

CINEMA COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON CINEMATHEQUE (01273-739970): Banned (NC); Invocation Maya Deren + Divine Horseman; the Living Gods of Haiti (1947-1951) (NC)

BRISTOL CINEWORLD THE MOVIES (01275-831099); A Bug's Life (U): Elizabeth (15); Enemy of the State (15); Hi-lary and Jackie (15); Holy Man (PG); Jack Frost (PG); Laa Warls (PG); Lit-tle Voice (15); Madeline (U); Patch Adams (12): Practical Magic (12); Shakespeare in Love (15); Stepmom (12); The Swan Princess (U): The in Red Line (15); This Year's Low (18): Thumbelina (U); Urban Legend (18); Very Bad Things (18); You've Got M@il (PG); Zakhm (PG)

CAMBRIDGE WARNER VILLAGE (01223-460442); A Bug's Life (U): Holy Man (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Volce (15): Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12); Shakespeare in Love (15); Star Trek: Insurrection (PG) The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); Titanic (12); Urban Legend (18); La Vita è Bella (PG); You've Got M@ii (PG)

CARDIFF ABC (0541-555178): Elizabeth (15): Enemy of the State (15): Jack rost (PG): Patch Adams (12); eare in Love (15): Star Trek

Insurrection (PG); Stepmom (12) EASTBOURNE CURZON (01323-731441); A Bug's Life (U): Little Voice (15); Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12) ie (U): Patch Adams (12); Lepa Sela Lepo Gore (15): Steprnom

(12); You've Got M@II (PG) GUILDFORD ODEON (08705-050007); Babe: (15): A Bug's Life (U): Dr Dolit tle (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): Mula (U): Patch Adams (12); Primary

Frost (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12):

(15); This Year's Love (18); Titanic

UCI 6 (0870-603 4567); A Bug's Life (U); Little Voice (15); Madeline (U);

My Name is Joe (15); The Parent Trap (PG); Patch Adams (12); The

Prince of Egypt (U): Shakespeare in Love (15): Stepmom (12): There's Something About Mary (15): The Thin Red Line (15): This Year's Love (18): You've Got M@II (PG)

ODEON LEISURE WORLD (01703-

222111); Babe: Pig in the City (U): Beloved (15): Blade (18); A Bug's

Life (U); Don't Go Breaking my

Heart (PG); Dr Dolittle (PG): En-emy of the State (15): Godzilla

(PG): Hum Aapke Dil Mein Rehte

Hain (PG); Jack Frost (PG); Little

Voice (15): Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels (18): Madeline

(U): Mulan (U): Patch Adams (12):

Shakespeare in Love (15); Smail

Soldiers (PG): Stepmom (12);

There's Something About Mary

(15): This Year's Love (18): Urban Legend (18): Very Bad Things (18):

La Vita è Bella (PG): You've Got

CINEWORLD (01793-420710): A

Bug's Life (U): Elizabeth (15): En-

emy of the State (15): Hilary and Jackle (15): Holy Man (PG): Jack Frost (PG): Kachche Dhaage (PG): Little Voice (15): Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12): Shakespeare in

Love (15): Stepmom (12): The Swan Princess (U): The Thin Red

Line (15); This Year's Love (18); Thumbelina (U); Urban Legend

(18): You've Got M@il (PG)

Got M@il (PG)

CKFORD

M@il (PG)

PORTSMOUTH

SOUTHAMPTON

Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-tion of JB Priestley's thriller Garrick Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494 Colors (15): Shakespeare in Love (15): The Thin Red Line (15): This 5085) \varTheta Leic Sq. Mon-Fri 7.45pm, Year's Love (18): Urban Legend (18); La Vita è Bella (PG): You've Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 5pm. £12-£29.50. 110 mins. Got M@il (PG) VIRGIN CINEMA (0870-907 0748):

LIFT OFF Issues of race are exolored in Roy Williams's new piece. Royal Court Upstairs (at The Am-Babe: Pig in the City (U): Beloved (15): A Bug's Life (U): Enemy of bassadors) West Street, WC2 (0171-565 5000) ⊕ Leic Sq. Mon-Sat the State (15): Hu Tu Tu (NC): Jack Frost (PG): Little Volce (15); Madeline (U): Patch Adams (12): 9pm, ends 13 Mar, £10, concs £5. rom (12): The Thin Red Line (15):

LITTLE MALCOLM AND HIS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE EU-NUCHS Ewan McGregor stars as the This Year's Love (18); Urban Legend (18); Very Bad Things (18); You've Got M@il (PG) revolutionary activist in David Halliwell's drama. Comedy Panton Street. SW1 (0171-369 1731) & Picc Circ/Lelc Sq. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, ends 13 Mar, £7-£27.50. MAIDSTONE **ODEON LOCHMEADOW (08705-**050007); Antz (PG); Babe: Pig in the City (U); Beloved (15): A Bug's Life (U); Dr Dollttle (PG); Jack

MACBETH Rufus Sewell and Sal-by Dexter portray thwarted ambition. Oucen's Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444) @ Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 5 Jun, £10.50-£28.50. Shakespeare in Love (15); Small Soldiers (PG); The Thin Red Line 2); Urban Legend (18); You've

THE MEMORY OF WATER Alison Steadman and Julie Sawalha star in this touching comedy about three sis-ters returning home for their mother's funeral. Vaudeville Strand. WC2 (0171-836 9987) BR/O Charing X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [5][7] 3pm, £8-£27.50.

ABC GEORGE STREET (0541-550501); A Bug's Life (U): Little Voice (15); The Thin Red Line (15); This Year's Love (18); You've Got • LES MISERABLES Musical dramatisation of Victor Hugo's mas-terpiece about the French Revolution. Palace Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909) & Picc Circ, Monat 7.30pm, (5)(7) 2.30pm, £7-£35.

> I MISS SAIGON Musical which re-THISS SAIGON Musical which re-sets the Madam Butterfly tragedy to the war in Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury Lane Catherine Street, WCZ (0171-494 5060) & Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £8.50-£35, 165 mins.

> • THE MOUSETRAP Agatha Christie's everlasting whodunult. St Martin's West Street. WC2 (0171-[3] 2.45pm, [7] 5pm, booking to Jun 26, £10-£24.50, 135 mins. OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman stars in the National's acclaimed pro-

> duction of Rodgers and Han stein's cowboy v farmhand musical. Lyceum Wellington Street, WC2 (0870-606 3446/cc 606 6446) & Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, ends 26 Jun.

> THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic musical Her Majesty's Haymarket, SW1 (0171-494 5400/cc 344 4444) O Picc Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-£35, 150

PRENT Musical inspired by Puccini's La Boheme and set in modern day New York, Shaftesbury Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2 (07000-211221)

Holborn/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £12.50-

£32.50, 160 mins

THEATRE

WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-

Matinees — [1]: Sun. [3]: Tue. [4]: Wed, [5]: Thur, [6]: Fri. [7]: Sat

Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclair

drama Old Vic The Out SE1 (0171-

928 7616/cc 420 0000) BR/O Wa-

Leic Sq. Tue-Sat 8pm, [4] 3pm, [7][1] 5pm, £9.50-£27.50. 90 mins.

DEAUTY AND THE BEAST Lav-

ish family musical based on Disney's cartoon version of the favourite fairy

tale. Dominion Tottenham Court

Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) & Tott

Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35. 150 mins.

• BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-

ell's long-running Liverpool musical melodrama, Phoenix Charing Cross Road, WCZ (0171-369 1733)

• THE COLOUR OF JUSTICE

DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN

mersmith Queen Caroline Street, W6 9 (0171-416 6022) & Hammer-

smith, Tue-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 150 mins.

of the hit film starring Darren Day.

Cambridge Earlham Street, WCZ

(0171-494 5080) → Covent Garden.

Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3pm, £10-

AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stenhen

£25, concs available.

RICHARD III Robert Lindsay stars as the historical villain. Savoy Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8888/cc 836 0479) ⊕ Charing X/Embankment, Mon-Sa day; times and prices for the week; running times include intervals. 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50.

ROYAL NATIONAL THEATRE — Seats at all prices) — Seats at some prices O — Returns only OLIVIER: Troilus And Cressida John Caird and Trevor Nunn direct Shakespeare's reinvention of • AMADEUS David Suchet stars as in rep. tonight 7pm.

● LYTTLETON: Betrayal Pinter's work depicts a menage à trois and stars Imogen Stubbs and Douglas terioo. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 2.30pm, £7.50-£30. 180 mins. Hodge, in rep, today 2.30pm & 7.30pm, ends 7 Apr. 90 mins. B ART Tom Mannion, Danny Webb, Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's com-edy about art and friendship. Wyn-dham's Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736/cc 867 1111) &

● COTTESLOE: The Riot Nick Darke's drama from Knee atre. In rep, tonight 7.30pm.

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THE PIT: Goodnight Children
Everywhere A teenage evacuee returns home at the end of the war and after the death of his parents in Richard Nelson's moving new drama. In rep. tonight 7.15pm, ends 27 Apr. Barbican Theatre: £5-£26. The Plt: £11-£18.50. Barbican Centre, £C2 (0171-638 8891), BR/ & Barbican.

● YOUNG VIC: Bartholmew Fair Ben Jonson's intensely theatrical show stars Stephen Boxer. In rep. tonight 7.15pm. RSC at the Young Vic. £14-£20. The Cut. \$£1 (0171-928 6363). BR/O: Waterloo.

♣ Leic Sq/Tott Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [5] 3pm, [7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50. 165 mins. SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER HIL 1970s musical featuring legendary songs by the Bee Gees and starring Adam Garcia, London Palladium Ar-● BUDDY Musical biog-show trac-ing the brief life of Buddy Holly. Strand Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800) ⊕ Covent Garden/Charing X. gyll Street, W1 (0171-494 5020) & Oxford Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] Tue-Thur 8pm, Fri 5.30pm & 8.30pm, Sat 5pm & 8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30, half price Friday 2.30pm, £10-£32.50, 135 mins.

SHOOGHEADED PETER Brilliant junk opera, featuring the Tiger Lillies. Lyric Hammersmith King Street, W6 (0181-741 2311) ◆ Hammer-D CAT'S Lloyd Webber's musical version of T'S Eliot's poems. New London Parker Street, WC2 (0171-405 0072/cc 404 4079) ← Covent Garsmith. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends Apr 10, £5-£18.

• SLAVE'S SNOWSHOW Slava Polounine returns to London with his den/Holborn. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [3][7] 3pm, £10.50-£35, 165 mins. mesmeric show that takes all ages back to the realms of childish delight D CHICAGO Maria Friedman and Nicola Davies star in this hit Broad-way musical. Adelphi Malden Lane. WC2 (0171-344 0055) & Charing Piccadilly Denman Street, W1 (0171-369 1734) → Picc Circ. Mon-5at 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £10-£27.50. X. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4][7] 3pm, £16-£36 (inc booking fee). 130 mins.

● STARLIGHT EXPRESS Andrew Lloyd Webber's hi-tech roller-m cal. Apolio Victoria Wilton Road. Dramatisation of the headline-grab-bing Stephen Lawrence case. Vic-toria Palace Victoria Street, SW1 (0171-834 1317) BR/Ø Victoria. SW1 (0171-416 6070) BR/O Victoria. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. [3][7] 3pm. £12.50-£30, 150 mins.

Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 2pm, [7] 4pm, ends 13 Mar, £5-£15.50. O AMERICAN IMPORTS: THREE DAYS OF RAIN Drama about the strange legacy left to two children by their father. Donmar Warehouse Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) \$\to\$ Covent Garden. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 13 Mar. £8-£15, mats £8. • THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced Shakespeare Company's keenly-paced theatrical history lesson. Cri-terion Piccadilly Circus. W1 (0171-369 1747) & Picc Circ. Tue 8pm, £10-£25. 120 mlns. ● VASSA Howard Davies directs a

new stage version of Maxim Gorky's tale of a matriarch and her downtale of a maintarch and her down-trodden family. Albery St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-369 1730) ← Le-ic Sq. Mon-Sat 7.30pm. [5][7] 3pm. ends 27 Mar, £5-£29.50. I COPENHAGEN New drama from Michael Frayn about the discovery of the atom. Duchess Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 0171-344 4444) & Covent Garden. THE WEIR Conor McPherson's drama is set in Ireland and examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Royal Court Downstairs (at the Duke Of Mark's). S. Marking, Lang. W.C. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [5][7] 2.30pm, £10-£30, 145 mins.

Mark Little stars in this witty and wise comedy about the sexes. Apol-(0171-565 5000) ← Leic So/Charing X. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4][7] 3.30pm, £5-£25. 90 mins. lo Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5070) & Picc Circ, Mon-Thur 8pm, Fri-Sat 6pm & 8.45pm, £10-• WEST SIDE STORY Brand new production of Bernstein's classic musical, attempting to recreate the feel of the original Broadway hit. ● DR DOLITTLE Phillip Schofield talks to the animals in this new Prince of Wales Coventry Street, W1 (0171-839 5987) ♦ Leic Sc/Picc stage adaptation featuring Jim Henson Puppets. London Apollo Ham-

York's) St Martin's Lane, WC2

Orc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, £18.50-£35. 160 mins. O WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND Lloyd Webber's new musical based • GREASE Energetic stage version on the film of the same name. Aldwych Aldwych. WC2 (0171-416 6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Hol-6000/cc 0171-836 2428) & Hol-born. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5][7] 3pm, 510-52-50 332-60 3797]

£10-£32.50, 120 mins. THE WOMAN IN BLACK Su Hill's chilling ghost story. Fortune Rus-sell Street, WC2 (0171-836 2238/cc 344 4444) & Covent Garden/Hollhom Mon-Sat 8pm. [3] 3pm. [7] 4pm. £8.50-£23.50, 110 mins.

THEATRE BEYOND THE WEST END

LMEIDA THEATRE Speer Klau Maria Brandauer makes his Ex speaking debut in Esther Vilar's tantalising new drama, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Sat 3pm, ends 27 Mar. £9.50-£19.50, concs available. Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404) O Angel.

BUSH THEATRE Howle the Rook Two-hander presenting a night-arish vision of of contemporary Dublin. Mon-Sat 8pm, ends 13 Mar. £10. concs £7. Shepherd's Bush Green. W12 (0181-743 3388)

PLEASANCE THEATRE Blue Heart PLEASANCE THEATRE Blue Heart Caryl Churchill's comedy double-bill deals with family disruption and reunion. Tue-Sat 8pm, Sun 5pm, ends 21 Mar. £12. concs £8. Tue -all seats £5. Carpenters Mews. of North Road, N7 (0171-609 1800)

Caledonian Road. RICHMOND THEATRE The Birth-day Party Timothy West and Prunel-la Scales in Pinter's modern classic. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar, £8-£21. The Green, Richmond, Surrey (0181-940

TRICYCLE THEATRE Paddy Irishman, Paddy Englishman and Paddy...? Premiere of Declan Croghan's new piece looking at the male of the species. Mon-Fri 8pm, Sat 4.15pm & 8.15pm, ends 20 Mar, £8-£13.50, concs available. Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-328 1000) & Kilburn.

THEATRE COUNTRYWIDE

Basingstoke HAYMARKET THEATRE Dracula Stage adaptation of Bram Stoker's chilling horror story, with dark themes of passion, por mortality. Mon-Sat 7.45pm. ends 13 Mar. E9.50-E15.50, concs available Wote Street (01256-465566)

THEATRE ROYAL Cleo, Camping manuelle and Dick Terry John son's play looks at the Carry On ac-tors and recreates Sid James, Kenneth Williams and Bahs Windso on stage. 9 & 10 Mar, 7.30pm, 11-13 Mar. 8pm. £9-£22.50 Sawclose (01225-448844)

USTINOV STUDIO at the Theatre Royal Electra Kenneth McLeish's haunting and poetic translation of Sophocles' story of torrid family conflict. Tue-Sat 7.45pm, mats V Sat 2.45pm, ends 13 Mar. £8.50.

FIRST CALL, LAST CALL

First Call

FOR HIS DEBUT at the Royal Court, Mick Gordon directs Trust, a new play from award-winning writer Gary Mitchell. The conflict between domestic rifts and small town political problems is addressed in this work about an Irish family who find themselves eclipsed by their patriarch's dedication to protecting the community. When disaster strikes, Geordie's priorities are called into question as his wife and son lay claim to the help he seems only too capable of providing for others. Royal Court Theatre, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) to 13 Apr

Last Call

IT'S A RARE treat these days when Shane MacGowan (right) sings, as he will do this month with the Popes. Despite a life of hard-living, MacGowan has still managed a prolific musical career lasting more than 20 years. He first came to prominence as the frontman of the Pogues who blended traditional music with modern mannerisms and paved the way for many of today's Irish music stars. The unlikely-looking icon has even had a highbrow documentary made about his cultural impact. Catch him while you can at this one-off gig. The Forum, London NW5 (0171-344 0044) 17 Mar

concs £5.50 Sawclose (01225-

THEATRE ROYAL The Weir Conor McPherson's drama examines ideas of ghosts and angels. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, mats Tue 2.30pm, Sat 4pm. ends 13 Mar. £7.50-£15.50, concs available Bond Street (01273-

CAMBRIDGE CAMBRIDGE ARTS THEATRE Hushabye Mountain Jonathan Har-vey's new play with the twin setting f Heaven and Earth. Tue-Sa 7.45pm, mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £5-£14.50 St Edwards Passage (01223-503333)

CHELMSFORD CIVIC THEATRE Hen Party Raunchy night out for the ladies. Tue-Thur 7.30pm, Fri & Sat 8pm, ends 11 Mar. £9.50-£12. concs £7.50-£9 Fairfield Road (01245-606505)

CHICHESTER CHICHESTER FESTIVAL THEATRE Pirates of Penzance Paul Nicholas stars in this swash-buckling reworking of the Gilbert and S classic. 9-13 Mar, 7.30pm. £5.50-£21, concs available Oaklands Park

COLCHESTER MERCURY THEATRE The La-dykillers Stage adaptation of the 1955 Ealing Comedy classic about a group of robbers who use the house of a liftle old lady to plan a job. Mon-Wed 7.30pm. Thur-Sat 8pm, ends 27 Mar. £7.50-£15.50. concs available Balkerne Gate (01206-573948)

YVONNE ARNAUD THEATRE Suddenly Last Summer Tennessee Williams' chilling tale of motherly love starring Sheila Gish. Mon 7.45cm, Fri-Sax 8cm, mars Thur & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £10-£12.50, cones available Millbrook (01483,

LEICESTER HAYMARKET THEATRE A Passionate Woman Kay Mellor's conic and poignant comedy about a Leeds mum trying to come to terms with her son's imminent marris Tue-Sat 7.30om, ends 20 Mar.

NEWBUR WATERMILL THEATRE More Talk ing Heads Janet Brown, Patricia England and Sophie Lawrence bring Alan Bennett's superb monologues to life. Tue-Sat 7.30pm, mats Thu & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £6-£16.50 Bagnor (01635-46044)

NORWICH MADDERMARKET THEATRE Tess of the D'Urbevilles Musical adap-tation of Thomas Hardy's classic nov-el about a 19th-century country girl. el about a 19th-century country girl. Tonight 7.30pm. £8.50, concs £7.50 St Johns Alley (01603-620917)

POOLE POOLE ARTS CENTRE Barnum Roll up for Peter Duncan's performance in this classic musical. Mon-Sai 7.45pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm ends 13 Mar. E12-£18.50 Kingland Road (01202-685222)

THE MILL AT SONNING Laura Stage adaptation of the 1940s thriller. Mon-Sat 8.15pm (dinner 6.15pm), mats 5at 2.15pm (lunch 12.30pm meal Sonning Eye (0118-969 8000)

SOUTHAMPTON NUFFIELD THEATRE The Girt Game Frith Banbury directs Joss Ackland and Dorothy Tutin in this funny dra ma which centres around game of Gin Rummy. Mon-Thur 7,30pm, Fr & Sat 8pm, mats Thur 1.30pm, Sat 4pm, ends 13 Mar. £9.50-£13.50 iversity Road (01703-671771)

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON THE OTHER PLACE The Dispute Marivaux's quasi-scientific drams directed by Neil Bartlett. Mon-Sa 7.30pm. mat Sat 2.30pm, ends 20 Mar. £10-£19. concs available Southern Lane (01789-295623)

TAUNTON TAUNTON
THE BREWHOUSE On The Piste
John Godber's raunchy skingcomedy. Contains mulity. Tonight 7.45pm.
£10, concs £9 Coal Orchard (01823-

WESTCLIFT-ON-SEA CLIFFS PAVILION Lanza - The Last Serenade A musical tribute to legendary singer Mario Lanza Mon-Sat 7.30pm, mats Wed & Sat 2.30pm, ends 13 Mar. £11-£17.50 Station Road (01702-351135)

PALACE THEATRE CENTRE TWEITH Night Accessible production, directed by Barrie Rutter Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Wed 2.30pm, Sat 4pm, ends 13 Mar. £6.50-£14.50, concs available London Road (01702-342564)

WINDSOR THEATRE ROYAL Joseph and the nazing Technicolor Drea Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical version of the Bible story Mon-Sat 8pm, mats Mon, Fri, Sat, 5pm. Tue Thur, Sat 2pm, ends 13 Mar, £6-£25 Thames Street (01753-853888)

CONNAUGHT THEATRE Macbeth ano Theatre's physical produc**EXHIBITIONS**

BRIGHTON BRIGHTON MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY MARY POLICE (1900-1981) Retrospective of the artist's largely figurative paintings. Mon, Tue. Thur-Sat 10am-5pm. Sun 2pm-5pm, ends 28 Mar, free. Church Street (01272-29090)

ARNOLFINI Accelerator Work by an international group of contemporary artists, including Hilary Lloyd, Also Sasao and Stzy Spenca. Mon-Sat 10am-7pm, Sun 12noon-5pm, ends 28 Mar. free. Narrow Quay (0117-220-2103)

FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM Picasso and Matisse Prints, drawings, and ceramics from the museum's collection. Ends 11 Apr. Recent Acquisitions of Contempo rary American Prints Early etchings of the East Coast, lithographs, wood cuts and screenurints. Ends 2 May museum's outst ing collection of

Trumpington Street (01223-332900) GUILDFORD GUILDFORD HOUSE GALLERY In the Presence of a Woman Sculp-ture in celebration of Guildford's Women's Festival. Tue-Sat 10am-4.45pm, ends 27 Mar, free. High Street (01483-444740)

prints. Tue-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.15pm-5pm, ends 20 Jun. free.

LEICESTER CTTY ART GALLERY Tongues of Diamond Diverse paintings exploring myth and metaphor. Tue-Fri 11am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm, ends 27 Mar, free. Granby Street (0116-254 0595)

LONDON BARBICAN ART GALLERY Africa by Africa: A Photographic View More than 200 images from sub-Sabaran Africa.

sso and Photography: The Dark Mirror More than 300 works explore the Spanish master's relationship with photography. Mon, Thur-Sat 10am-6.45pm, Tue 10am-5.45pm, Wed 10am-7.45pm, Sun 12noon-6.45pm, ends 29 Mar. £5, concs £3, from Mon-Fri £3 after 5pm, Sik Street EC2 (0171-638 4141) & Barbican.

of a Design Icon Mini's designed by celebrities mark the 40th anniversary of the vehicle. Ends 9 May. Modern Britain 1927-1939 A study on the important period after the Great War including the work of Francis Bacon, Paul Nash and Bar para Hepworth. Mon-Sun 11.30am-6pm, ends 18 Jul. £5,25, concs £4 museum). Shad Tharnes SE1

10171-378 60551 O Tower Hill. HAYWARD GALLERY Patrick Caulfield Colourful paintings by the leading British artist. Mon. Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Tue & Wed 10am-8pm, ends 11 Apr. £6, concs £4, family 12. Belvedere Road SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/O Waterloo.

NATIONAL GALLERY Portraits by Ingres Major exhibition of work by the 19th-century French artist. Mon & Tue, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-10pm, ends 25 Apr. E6. concs £4, Wed 7pm-10pm £4. Orazio Gentileschi at the Court of Charles I Rare exhibition exploring the work of the 17th-century Ital artist, Mon & Tue, Thur-Sun 10am-6pm, Wed 10am-9pm, ends 23 May, free. Trafalgar Square WC2 (0171-747 2885) → Charing Cross.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS Monet In the 20th-Century Eighty paintings made in the 26 years after 1900. Mon-Thur, Sun 9am-Spm, Fri & Sat 9am-10pm, ends 18 Apr. £9, concs £6, child (12-18) £3, child (8-11) £1.50. Burlington House, Piccadilly W1 (0171-300 8000) & Green Park.

TATE GALLERY Art Now 17: Thomas Demand's Tunnei Looped film of travel in a tunnel explores urban life. Ends 25 Apr, free Works on Paper and Paintings Francis Bacon Paintings and draw ings previously kept secret. Ends 2 May, free. When Robots Rule - The One Minute

Airplane Factory: Cliris Burden In-stallation of flying planes explores contemporary life. Mon-Sun 10am-5.50pm, ends 13 Jun, free, Milibania SW1 (0171-887 8000) & Pimilco.

NORWICH NORWICH AIRTS CENTRE India 50 Working People: Sebastiao Sal-gado The internationally acclaimed photographer portrays the harsh re-ality of Indian life. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm, Sat 11am-4pm, ends 8 Apr, free. Reeves Yard, St Benedict's Street (01603-660352)

ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM The Painterly Brush Oil sketches dating from the 16th to the early 20th cen tury, Ends 21 Mar. Buddhist Art from Tibet: The EM Scratton Collection Extensive co. ection notable for its diversity. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm, Sun 2pm-4pm, ends 2 May, free, Beaumont Street

GLYNN VIVIAN ART GALLERY Venice Through Canaletto's Eyes Twenty three paintings and drawings Twenty-three paintings and drawing by the Venetian artist, Tue-Sun 10am Spm, ends 14 Mar, free. Alexandra Road (01792-651738)

(01865-278000)

CLASSICAL

BASINGSTOKE
THE ANVIL Tallis Scholars Settings
by Palestrina and others. Tonight
7.45pm. £10.50-£16. Churchill Way (01256-844244)

> BARBICAN HALL Royal Philips monic/Temirkanov Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto and Rachmaninov's Symphony No.2 Tonight 7.30pm. £5-£32. Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8891) & Moorgate.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL Philharmonia/Dohnanyl Berg's Violin Con-certo and Schubert's 9th Symphony. Tonight 7.30pm, £5-£30. WIGMORE HALL Hanover Band

OPERA

Barroque chamber works. Tonight 7.30pm. £9-£20. Wigmore Street, WI (0171-935 2141) & Bond Street.

GUILDHALL SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DRAMA The Tsarina's Shoes A rare staging for Tchaikovsky's opera Tonight 7pm. £14, concs £10. Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891)

DANCE

EASTBOURNE CONGRESS THEATRE Northern let Theatre Present: Carmen Pasaionate interpretation of Bizer's score. 7.30pm. ends 13 Mar. £8.50-£20.

Compton Street (01323-412000)

HALL FOR CORNWALL The Royal Ballet: Dance Bioes New works by Mark Baldwing and William Tuckett. Today 1.30pm & 7.30pm. £13.50-£19.50, concs available, mat all seats E6.50. Back Quay (01872-262466)

LONDON SADLER'S WELLS AT THE PEA-COCK THEATRE Paco Peña Flamenco presents La Musa Gitana World class flamenco. Tue-Sat 8pm, mats Sat & Sun 3pm, ends 20 Mar. £7 50-£35 Portug (0171-863 8222) → Holborn.

LITERATURE

OXFORD WILL SELF: TOUGH TOUGH TOYS FOR TOUGH TOUGH BOYS An aparance by the inin Freud's Cafe Walton Street (01865-792792) Tonight 7pm, £2.

EDGE OF A DREAM - POETRY AT THE CROSSROADS Discussion with Blake Morrison and Andrew Motion Voice Box, Royal Festival Hall South Bank SE1 (0171-960 4242) BR/& Waterloo. Today 5pm, £4, concs £2.50.

GRANTA MAGAZINE ISSUE 65 Ian Jack, Lucretia Stewart, Ian Parker and Helen Simpson launch the new issue Waterstone's (Islington) Is-lington Green N1 (0171-704 2280) Angel. Tonight 7pm, free.

COMEDY

BATH
THE FEZ COMEDY CLUB AT CADILLACS Featuring Scott Capurro, Hai Cruttenden and Robin Ince. Tonight 8pm, Walcot Street (01225-464241) E5, concs £4.

LONDON THE COMEDY STORE With Steve Gribbin, Lee Hurst, Boothby Graffoe and Sean Meo. Tonight 8pm. Oxen-don Street, SW1 (0171-344 0234) ◆ Piccadilly Circus, £11, concs £7.

PLYMOUTH COMEDY CLUB AT THE COOPER-AGE Top comics from the circuit. Tonight 7.30pm, Vauxhall Street, The Barbican (01752-229275) £4.

WATFORD JONGLEURS WATFORD AT 10N. GLEURS WATFORD Special Red Nose show in aid of Comic Relief. Tonight 7.30pm, The Parade (0845-6081818) £15.

CLUBS

SUSSIT AT THE HONEY CLUB Old and new indie night. Tonight 10pm-2am, free. King's Road Arches (01273-202807)

TUESDAYS AT CAFE BLUE Live Latin with DJ support. Tonight 9pm-larn, free. The Old Fire Station, Silver Street (0117-940 5626)

LONDON COLDSWEAT AT THE ZEEBRA BAR Sweet soul music. Tonight 10pm-3am, Frith Street, W1 (0171-437 4018) & Leicester Square, £5. **EVENTS**

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LETCHWORTH
EXPLORING SPACE Interselled hibition about the outer reaches of our galaxy. Letchworth Museum and Art Gallery Broadway (0) 4650 685647) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm ends. 10 Apr. free.

LONDON DNA YOUR ONIONS WORKSHOP Children aged over nine can learn to extract DNA from an onion. Science for Life Euston Road NW1 0171-611 7211) @ Euston. Set 1.30am, free.

SOUTHAMPTON THE WORK OF WOMEN ARTISTS A tour looking at the work of women artists over the centuries, led by Mary Kilpatrick Southampton City Art Gallery (01703-832151) loday 1.30pm-2.30pm, free.

> MUSIC POP

CARDIFF SOLID SILVER SIXTIES SHOUL Retro classic starring Peter Nouncy Freddie & The Dreamers Billy J Kramer and Brian Pools. St David's Hall The Hayes (0.1222-878444) BR: Cardiff Central Tonight 7.30pm, £12.50-£15.50.

PONTARDAWE BILLY BRAGG AND THE BLOKES The Bard is on a high at the momen, with America bracing his Guthrie project, so he consolidates with a swift tour in his own right. Pontar-

dawe Arts Centre Herbert Street (01792-863722) Tonight 7.30pm. PORTSMOUTH STEPS Chartbusting dance-pop quintet perform their smash hits. The Guildhall Guildhall Square (01705-

824355) Tonight 8pm, £14,50.

UNDERWORLD Becaucoup Fish album tour for the enigmatic dencecrossover outfit Astoria Charit Cross Road WC2 (0171-434 0403) O Tottenham Court Road. Tonigh. 8pm, phone for availability.

UK AFRICA Music showcase for ment. Cafe de Paris Coventry Street W1 (0171-734 7700) O Piccadilly Circus, Tonight 10pm, £10, concs £6. ROTHKO, KARAMASOV, FOURTH

QUARTET Cultish post-rock traind noted for their three hass guipar line-up. Upstairs at the Garage Highbury Corner. N5 (0171-607 1818) BR/O Highbury & Islington. Tonight 9pm, £5. LOOPER Happy family spin off from

Belle & Sebastian Rough Trade Shop Talbot Road W11 (0171-792 3490) Tonight 6pm, phone for availability. DARK STAR Ex-Levitation ensem ble play epic dark rock. Water Rats Theatre Gray's Inn Road WC1 (0171-284 0077) BR/O King's

NETL DIAMOND One of the most disinctive and original voices in popular music, with a string of classic tiling including "Sweet Caroline", "Helli Again", "Song Sung Blue" and "Love On The Rocks", Wentbley Arena Empire Way, Wernbley, HAS (0181-902 0902) — Wernbley Park, Toulght: 70m. phone for availability.

NOTTINGHAM WAYNE GORBEA AND SALSA PICANTE The lively all-star New York salsa easemble. O'Reilly's Bird Thurland Street (0115-941 7709)

: THE HOOK LINE Women in Focis special featuring a new piece from Laka Daisical, Jazz Cafe Parkway NW1 (0171-916 6060) ◆ Candon

Town. Tonight 8.30pm, £12, adv £10 GEORGE MELLY AND JOHN CHILTON'S FEETWARMERS RISP necdotal cabaret and tradjazz show Pizza on the Park Knightstill SW1 (0171-235 5273) # Hyde

tuosic Caribbean pianist. Romble Scott's Frith Street W1 (0171-435 0747) O Leicester Square. 901 11.30pm, £12, mems £4.

ALEX MAGUIRE TRIO The highly regarded freeform plano modernist The Space West Ferry Road E14 (0171-515 7799) DLR: Modelmur.

MARK AND MIKE MONDESIR Chub-edged acoustic drum and bass featuring the high profile jazz shing Street £14 (0171-392 9032) BR/e Liverpool rest. Tonight 8pm, £7,50-

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Cross. Tonight 8.30pm, £6. 7pm, phone for availability MUSIC £4, concs £3.

JAZZ, WORLD, FOLK...

Tonight 9pm, £8.50, adv £7.50, concs available. SOUTHAMPTON
CAROLINE TAYLOR GROUP Respected bop quintet in a Horace Silver vein, John Ariott Room Staff Oth. Southampton University (01703-593600) Tonight 8.30pm, £6, NUS

Park Corner, Tonight 9.15pm. & 11.15pm, E20, adv £18. MONTY ALEXANDER TRIO THE

Tonight 8pm, £5, concs £3....